

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Celebrating the  
Miracle on Ice  
25 years later**

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1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team



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Volume 2, No.317 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2005

## All NATO nations to help train Iraqi forces

Though modest, contributions are praised by Bush in Belgium Page 7

### U.S. troops bring aid to frozen Afghanistan Page 4



A U.S. soldier carries food relief with local Afghans Monday for villagers hit by heavy snow in Zabul province of Afghanistan. At least 180 children had died in Afghanistan's coldest winter in years, the nation's health minister said Tuesday amid warnings that the final death toll from the subzero temperatures and heavy snow could run into the thousands.

AP

# News Tracker ... What's new with old news

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## States

**Human smuggling case:** Race and the death penalty have come to the forefront of the prosecution of a New York man accused of driving and abandoning a hot, airless tractor-trailer in what became the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt.

The legal wrangling over whether truck driver Tyrone Williams is facing the death penalty because he is black isn't over but jury selection in his trial began Tuesday.

Williams' trial, in Houston, has been postponed four times since its original Jan. 5 start date because of appeals over the race issue.

Prosecutors have said Williams is facing the death penalty because he alone had the power to free the more than 70 illegal immigrants who were stuffed in his tractor-trailer as the interior temperature neared 173 degrees and they screamed for help. Authorities say Williams, 34, of Schenectady, N.Y., was paid \$7,500 by a smuggling ring to transport immigrants from South Texas to Houston.

**Michael Jackson trial:** After two weeks of delays, Michael Jackson was expected back in court Tuesday in Santa Monica, Calif., as lawyers prepared to resume selecting a jury in the child molestation case against the pop star.

Jury selection was abruptly suspended last week when Jackson was rushed to an emergency room with "flu-like" symptoms. The 46-year-old pop star was treated and released Wednesday.

The week before, jury selection was delayed by the death of lead defense attorney Thomas Meserere's sister.

**Lasers and airplanes:** The FBI is investigating after six airline pilots told authorities that they saw a laser while approaching Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

The pilots told authorities that they each saw a green laser while flying over Denton County between 7:30 and 8:45 p.m. Sunday, said John Clabes, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman.

Over the last four months, the FAA has received dozens of reports of lasers being pointed at airplanes in several states.

But unlike previous incidents, no lasers were aimed at the airplanes' cockpits in the Sunday sightings, said FBI Special Agent Lori Bailey, an agency spokeswoman.

"Right now we're characterizing it as having observed laser activity," she said. "It would be different from somebody actually getting targeted with a laser light."

## World

**North Korea nuclear dispute:** North Korean leader Kim Jong Il said his government will return to six-party nuclear disarmament talks if the United States shows sincerity and meets his conditions, the communist state's official news agency said Tuesday.

But in a rare comment on the nuclear dispute, the reclusive Stalinist leader also said Pyongyang's commitment to a peaceful solution remains unchanged — raising hopes that Kim would eventually go for a deal.

"We will go to the negotiating table anytime there are mature conditions for the six-party talks thanks to the concerted efforts of the parties concerned in the future," Kim told a visiting Chinese envoy, expressing the hope that the United States would show "trustworthy sincerity," according to the Korean Central News Agency.

**Chechen rebels:** Nine Russian soldiers were killed and three were injured when a reinforced concrete wall collapsed on them during a clash with rebels in Chechnya, a military spokesman said Tuesday.

Maj. Gen. Ilya Shabalnikov, spokesman for the federal forces in Chechnya, said it was unclear what had caused the collapse Mon-



**Indonesia garbage slide:** Indonesian soldiers and residents retrieved the body of a victim from the wreckage of houses buried under mountains of debris in Bandung, Indonesia, on Tuesday. Rescuers were digging for survivors Tuesday after a garbage dump collapsed onto a neighborhood Monday, killing at least 41 people, local police said. At least 70 other people were still missing and feared dead. It was triggered early Monday by torrential rains that have hit the region in recent days.

day night. Military investigators were considering several scenarios, including that the wall was brought down by a grenade or another blast set off by rebels.

A number of rebels were killed in the clash, Shabalnikov said.

**Pope's health:** Pope John Paul II received the prime minister of Croatia on Tuesday, the first foreign leader to meet with the pontiff since he was rushed to the hospital with breathing problems three weeks ago.

The frail 84-year-old pope appeared alert and in relatively good form but did not speak during a five-minute photo session that followed a 10-minute private meeting.

Prime Minister Ivo Sanader, speaking later with Croatian reporters, said the pope was "well, but still showing the effects of his illness." John Paul was hospitalized Feb. 1 with respiratory problems that developed while he was suffering from the flu.

**Egyptian detentions:** Egyptian and international rights groups attacked the government Tuesday for detaining as many as 2,400 people for four months in its investigation of the October bombings that devastated the Taba Hilton hotel.

Some of the detainees have been tortured, and all have been held for about 16 weeks without access to lawyers or their families — a violation of Egyptian law, Human Rights Watch said in a report released at a press conference with two Egyptian rights groups in Cairo.

"Egyptian security forces responded to the Taba atrocity by committing mass human rights abuses," said Joe Stork, the Middle East director of Human Rights Watch in a statement. He accused President Hosni Mubarak of arrogance.

**Resignation of U.N. refugee chief:** United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has told employees of the U.N. refugee agency that his acceptance of their chief's resignation should not be interpreted as indicating he is guilty of sexual misconduct, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

In a letter distributed to the staff of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Annan stressed that Ruid Lubbers has not been found guilty of any offense, U.N. spokeswoman Marie Heuze said.

My decision to accept his resignation should not be interpreted as a finding of guilt," Annan wrote. "I have accepted his resignation with regret because I greatly ap-

preciate the energy and commitment with which, over the past four years, he has led our collective effort to help some of the world's most unfortunate people."

**Iran nuclear program:** Iran on Tuesday shrugged off growing pressure from the United States to abandon its nuclear program, saying it was not violating international laws that allow the peaceful use of atomic energy.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said his country was well within its rights to develop its nuclear program, which he insisted was in accordance with regulations set by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Iran will not give up its nuclear program and will not be cowed by Washington, he said. "We are not going to renounce our universally recognized right" to develop the nuclear program, Kharrazi said.

**China mine explosion:** The body of the last missing miner from a Feb. 14 coal mine explosion in northeast China has been found, bringing the death toll from the disaster to 214, the government said Tuesday.

The gas explosion at the Sunjiawan colliery near Fuxin, in northeastern China's Liaoning province, was the worst such disaster reported in decades.

Of the 574 miners working at the time of the blast, 330 escaped unharmed and 244 were trapped. The remains of the final miner missing were found early Tuesday, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

**Religious vandalism:** Vandals scrawled swastikas and other Nazi references on the walls of the Grand Mosque of Paris, the best-known Muslim religious site in France, religious leaders said Monday.

"This intolerable act of Islamophobia is a worrying symptom in the capital," Dalil Bakhay, director of the Paris mosque, said in a statement.

The vandals, writing in what appeared to be ink from a black marker, scrawled about a dozen swastikas, other Nazi references and "Get Out" on the white walls around the imposing, decades-old mosque.

Mosque officials filed a complaint with local police, who were investigating the incident.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

# Al-Jaafari emerges as likely prime minister

## Chalabi drops bid

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Interim Vice President Ibrahim al-Jaafari was chosen as his Shiite ticket's candidate for prime minister Tuesday after Ahmad Chalabi dropped his bid, senior alliance officials said.

Al-Jaafari's selection means he likely will lead Iraq's first democratically elected government in 50 years. But first he has to be approved by a coalition that likely will include the Kurds, and then he must be approved by a majority of the newly elected National Assembly.

Pressure from within the ranks of the United Iraqi Alliance, which won Iraq's landmark Jan. 30 election, forced the withdrawal of Chalabi, a one-time Pentagon favorite, said Hussein al-Moussawi from the Shiite Political Council, an umbrella group for 38 Shiite parties.

Meanwhile, two explosions echoed through Baghdad at midday. A plume of black smoke rose from the Green Zone, where Iraqi government offices and the U.S. Embassy are located.

Police Capt. Muthanna Hassan said one of the blasts was a car bomb that exploded as an Iraqi special forces convoy passed by, killing two soldiers and wounding 20 others. It was not clear what caused the other blast.

In western Baghdad, masked gunmen hurled explosives into a Shiite mosque in the Ghazaliyah neighborhood, police Capt. Sa'ad Jawad Kadhim said. The explosives failed to detonate and guards opened fire on the attackers, killing one and forcing the rest to flee, Kadhim said.

Also in Baghdad, police failed a suicide bombing, arresting a Sudanese man who

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,483 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,116 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 21 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths: Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,345 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,007 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Three soldiers were killed Monday in Baghdad when a roadside bomb detonated as they were evacuating a fellow soldier.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Clinton R. Gertson, 26, Houston; died Saturday in Mosul from small arms fire; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash.

■ Army 1st Lt. Adam Malson, 23, Rochester Hills, Mich., killed by an explosive while on patrol Saturday in Baghdad, assigned to the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, Fort Drum, N.Y.

■ Army Spc. Seth R. Truman, 20, killed by an explosive while on patrol Saturday in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to the National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, Crowley, La.

■ Army Sgt. Carlos J. Gil, 30, Orlando, Fla., killed by an explosive Friday in Humaniyah; assigned to the 377th Transportation Company, 181st Transportation Battalion, Mannheim, Germany.



Interim Vice-President Ibrahim al-Jaafari was selected by the United Iraqi Alliance to be his party's nominee for prime minister, meaning he'll almost certainly be Iraq's first democratically elected leader in 50 years.

tried to detonate an explosives-laden belt inside the Adnan Khashoggi Allah hospital, Interior Ministry Capt. Ahmed Ismail said.

It was apparently the second suicide mission involving a Sudanese. At least one man believed to be of Sudanese origin carried out a suicide bombing Saturday in Baghdad, part of a wave of violence that killed 55 people on Ashoura, the holiest day of the Shiite calendar.

Also in the capital, a U.S. military convoy was hit in a roadside bomb attack in the southern neighborhood of Douara, po-

lice Lt. Haitham Abdul Razak said.

U.S. troops exchanged fire with gunmen in Samarra, 60 miles north of the capital. One Iraqi was killed in a mortar strike there, said Dr. Aala al-Deen Mohammed.

Al-Jaafari said dealing with insurgents and re-establishing security would be the first task of his government if he becomes prime minister.

Some of Chalabi's aides, including Qaisar Witwi, suggested he was being offered the post of deputy prime minister in charge of economic and security affairs.

# McCain favors permanent U.S. bases in Afghanistan

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The United States needs permanent military bases in Afghanistan to protect its "vital national security interests" in the region, an influential American lawmaker said Tuesday after talks with the Afghan president.

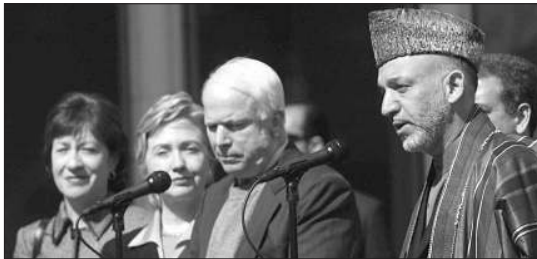
The remarks by Sen. John McCain are the latest indication of American and British aspirations to cement their influence in this former al-Qaida stronghold, on the doorstep of Iran, China and nuclear-armed rivals Pakistan and India.

McCain, part of a five-strong U.S. Senate delegation which met President Hamid Karzai at his palace in the Afghan capital, said he was committed to a "strategic partnership that we believe must endure for many, many years."

"Not only because of our appreciation of Afghanistan, but also we believe there will be vital national security interests in this region for a long time," McCain told reporters.

Asked what such a partnership would entail, he said: "Economic assistance, technical assistance, military partnership including — and this is a personal view — joint military permanent bases and also cultural exchanges."

McCain, the No. 2 Republican on the Senate Armed Services



Afghan President Hamid Karzai said he welcomed a partnership with the United States as U.S. senators, from left, Susan Collins, R-Me., Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and John McCain, R-Ariz., listen Tuesday.

Committee, didn't elaborate on the kind of American military presence he was advocating. Karzai did not address the issue at a joint news conference and his office didn't return a call seeking comment.

A spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry, Gen. Mohammad Zaher Azimi, would say only that U.S. and NATO forces expect to be "needed in Afghanistan and are here legitimately to expand the Afghan security sector."

Questions on permanent foreign bases were "for the top level of government to answer," Azimi said.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton said she hoped to expand a "friendship and partnership which is very important to the United States and something that we believe very strongly is in the interests of both" countries.

Afghanistan's neighbors include Pakistan to the south and east, China to the northeast and

oil-rich Central Asia to the north. It also shares a long and porous border with Iran, which the U.S. government accuses of running a covert nuclear arms program.

Iranian leaders as well as U.S. military commanders have warned that instability in Iran would also have negative effects on Afghanistan. American officials have not denied media reports that U.S. troops carried out spying operations on Iranian soil last year.

Officials from the Afghan government and the U.S.-led military coalition in Afghanistan told The Associated Press earlier this month they are examining a military partnership which could include permanent American bases here.

Visiting British Foreign Minister Jack Straw said last week that Britain was appointing a former commander of Afghanistan's international peacekeeping force as a special envoy to explore its own "strategic partnership" with Afghanistan.

However, Afghan Defense Minister Rahim Wardak has also requested high-tech weaponry such as attack helicopters and special forces for the new U.S.-trained Afghan National Army to reduce the need for foreign troops.

There are currently about 17,000 U.S. forces in Afghanistan. The Afghan army, which currently numbers about 20,000 and is taking part in counterinsurgency operations in troubled areas near the Pakistani frontier, is to reach its full strength of 70,000 by the end of 2006.

Karzai limited himself to expressing enthusiasm for the partnership. "It is because of help from the United States that Afghanistan has what it has today: Be it in reconstruction, be it in economy, in elections, in the very fact that this is a country that is now owning itself."

# Losses in Iraq lead to antiwar activism

By EVELYN NIEVES

The Washington Post

VACAVILLE, Calif. — Five minutes after President Bush began his State of the Union address, Cindy Sheehan clicked off her television set.

She would read the transcript, watch the salute to the parents of a Marine killed in Fallujah, cheer over such words as "ultimate sacrifice" and "fight against tyranny" the next morning.

It was too much to hear the cheering for the man who had sent her son to Iraq on the premise that Saddam Hussein stockpiled weapons of mass destruction.

Cindy Sheehan, a former Eagle Scout and junior who had joined the Army hoping to serve as a chaplain's assistant, was killed at age 24 in a war he wasn't sure why he was fighting. And more soldiers like him were dying every day. Where was the outrage?

Cindy Sheehan found it where she always does: in other families who have lost a loved one in a war they neither believe in nor want to believe will end without end, with the nation's acquiescence.

They call themselves Gold Star Families for Peace. Organized less than two months ago, it is part support group and part activist organization, with members united by grief and the belief that their loved ones died in a war that did not have to happen. They represent a small percentage of the families that have lost someone in Iraq — 50 families out of more than 1,450.

The fallen soldiers' obituaries indicate that many of their families continue to support the war. But the Gold Star Families say they support the soldiers because their mission is to speak out to help bring them home and mini-

mize the human cost of the war.

They include Bill Mitchell of Atascadero, Calif., who lost his son, Mike, 25, in the same April ambush that killed Casey Sheehan, and who also was unable to watch Bush's speech. And Celeste Zappala of Philadelphia, whose eldest son, Sherwood Baker, 30, a National Guardsman, was killed while on the search for weapons of mass destruction. She watched Bush's speech with the sound turned down, "trying to discern some truth amidst the choreography of clapping and fawn-

ing." Other Gold Star Families shared the same angst in their stomachs, the same sense of stunned disbelief.

They worry that as the war verges on entering its third year, the public seems to be losing interest in it. When Sheehan tells people she lost a son in the war, she said, she is sometimes asked, "Which war?"

"It's like the American public can listen to the war news for five minutes and then they can hear about Michael Jackson," she said.

The families stumbled upon one another through the Internet and through Military Families Speak Out, an antiwar group for families of loved ones serving in Iraq. With no outreach and little publicity, Gold Star Families for Peace — the name is a variation on American Gold Star Mothers, a group for mothers of slain soldiers that dates from the 1920s — gets inquiries from two or three families nearly every day, Sheehan said.

Many of them will meet in person for the first time when they converge with peace organizations in Fayetteville, N.C., on March 19 to mark the second anniversary of the start of the war.

Then they say they will get steam ahead in speaking out against the war.

*They call themselves Gold Star Families for Peace. Organized less than two months ago, members are united by grief and the belief that their loved ones died in a war that did not have to happen.*



U.S. soldiers unload food relief Monday for Afghan villagers hit by heavy snow in Zabul province of Afghanistan, where at least 180 children have died in the coldest winter in years, the health minister said Tuesday.

## U.S. troops drop aid as cold kills more Afghans

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Frigid temperatures and heavy snow have killed at least 180 children in Afghanistan, the health minister said Tuesday, and the U.S. military, the United Nations and aid groups are trying to bring relief to snowbound communities.

On Monday, three military helicopters dropped eight tons of wheat, cooking oil and beans next to a village of Khaki Afghan in Zabul province.

Hundreds of villagers covered in the swirling snow for the badly needed supplies as about 20 U.S. troops jumped from the hovering helicopters to stand guard as they were unloaded.

Officials warned Tuesday that the final death toll could reach the thousands.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said Tuesday that 260 people have perished from the freeze that began early last month and has left many remote regions snowbound.

The government has not yet given an estimate of nationwide casualties.

In Zabul, a southeastern province haunted by Taliban militants, Gov. Khan Mohammed Hussein told The Associated Press on Monday that 135 people had died from cold, hunger and disease. However, two of them had been attacked by wolves.

Health Minister Mohammed Amin Fatemi told AP that in other parts of Afghanistan, the toll among children alone has risen to 180, almost half of them in the Hindu Kush province of Ghor where scores of villages have been cut off by snow. Avalanches have killed another 29 people this year, Fatemi said.

On Monday, Canada's ambassador to Afghanistan, Christopher Alexander, said several thousand people could die in the cold snap, highlighting the continued poverty of Afghans and the weakness of their government three years after the Taliban's ouster by a U.S.-led invasion.

But Fatemi said forecasts by relief groups that the death toll could top 1,000 were alarmist.

Bad weather is also suspected as the cause of the Feb. 4 crash of a Boeing 737 which hit a frozen peak east of Kabul during a snowstorm, killing all 108 people on board.

Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammed Zaher Azimi said Tuesday that 46 bodies — including those of three children — had been recovered from the remote crash site so far.

American investigators have joined the Afghan effort to find out the reason for the crash, the worst in Afghan aviation history. The plane's data recorder has been retrieved, but the voice recorder is still missing.

## video reunions boosting morale

The Associated Press

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Christina Favila wanted to look her best. She hadn't been face to face with her husband since Christmas, when his Army Reserve unit shipped out to Iraq.

The 24-year-old mother of three picked a crisp silvery-white tailored blouse and tan slacks, and carefully applied her soft pink lipstick.

"I feel like I'm going on my first date," said Favila, her dark brown hair freshly streaked.

All this fuss for just 10 minutes together — and they wouldn't even be in the same hemisphere. The reunion came last weekend via a 7,500-mile live video link between this Army post in San Antonio and a U.S. base in Mosul, where Pfc. Juvenal Favila Jr. works as a clerk with the 228th Combat Support Hospital.

Almost since the war began in 2003, such high-tech hookups have provided morale boosts for soldiers who get to see their brides or children born after they were deployed.

"I'll be able to see him, exactly his face expressions and everything that he is doing," she said. "And the kids, I want to see their reaction. They don't really know why they're here. They think they're here for pictures."

Juvenal, a title installer in San Antonio before his reserve unit was called up, smiled and laughed. "Tell everybody I'm doing OK, I'm doing fine. I miss you very much. I love you all."

Christina barely managed to say "I love you, too" before covering her face with her hands and sobbing. He blew kisses and stepped out of the camera's view, leaving the chair empty until the next soldier sat down for his long-distance visit.



Christina Favila chases down her son, Ethan, as they take part in a reunion via a 7,500-mile live video link between Fort Sam Houston and a base in Mosul, Iraq, where Pfc. Juvenal Favila Jr., on monitor, works.



# Vermont welcomes home National Guard members after nearly a year in Iraq



AP photos

Vermont National Guard Sgt. Ralph Bullock of Barre, Vt., first soldier off the plane in Burlington, Vt., gets a welcome-home hug Monday from Gen. Martha Rainville, Guard commander.



Staff Sgt. Roger Nadeau walks with his son, Derek, left, and daughter Marina through the snowstorm that greeted returning soldiers.



Spc. Kevin Davis embraces his mother, Barby Davis of Waitsfield, Vt.

BY LISA RATHKE  
The Associated Press

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. — Nine-year-old Johanna Sargent of West Brookfield hadn't cried once since her father left for Iraq nearly a year ago — until he called Friday to say he would be home in a few days.

Her eyes welled up again when she spotted her father, Sgt. Greg Sargent, making his way through the crowd toward his family Monday.

"We missed you, Daddy," she said as he bent down to hug her.

Nearly 185 Vermont Army National Guard members returned to children, spouses, parents and friends Monday in an early morning snowstorm after serving 11 months in Iraq.

Families and friends cheered as they got their first glimpse of the soldiers lined up in formation with snow falling heavily on their fatigues.

The group marched in and quickly dispersed to find their families. Ryan Malone raced over to hug and kiss his young wife.

Then his family hovered around him, with two young nieces clinging to him, showing off the colorful posters they had made.

"It's a great day in Vermont," said his mother, Nancy Brown, of Rochester, who started the Vermont chapter of Military Families Speak Out and is against the war.

Gov. James Douglas said it was much easier to find words to address the soldiers Monday than it was last March when they were sent off to war. "Welcome home!" he said.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Rep. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., also greeted the soldiers in brief remarks so they could get home as soon as possible. A formal welcome home ceremony will be held at a later date.

The return of the soldiers from the 1st Battalion of the 86th Field Artillery Regiment were part of Vermont's first big deployment for the Iraq war. Three Vermont Guard soldiers were killed in action: Spc. Alan Bean Jr., 22, of Bridport; Sgt. Kevin Sheehan, 36, of Milton; and Sgt. Jamie Gray, 29, of East Montpelier.

A fourth, Sgt. William Normandy, 42, of East Barre, died of natural causes while training in the Kuwait desert.

About 15 soldiers were wounded severely enough so they didn't immediately return to duty. About 10 of those soldiers were sent back to the United States to recover from their wounds, said spokeswoman 1st Lt. Veronica Saffo.



From left, U.S. Co-Director of Balikatan '05 Maj. Gen. Stephen Torn, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu, Philippine National Defense Secretary Arvelino Cruz Jr. and U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires Joseph Musumeli link arms during the opening ceremony of the joint Balikatan exercise on Monday in Quezon City, east of Manila.

## Threat doesn't stop Philippines exercise

### Marxist rebels warn U.S. ahead of Balikatan

BY TERESA CERIOJANO  
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — More than 300 U.S. troops and 650 Filipino soldiers started a major military exercise in the Philippines' rural northeast Monday, brushing off a threat by Marxist rebels to attack the Americans if they venture into guerrilla strongholds.

The two-week deployment of U.S. forces is part of annual military maneuvers — dubbed "Balikatan" or "shouldering the load together" — aimed at promoting the ability of U.S. and Filipino troops to work together in a potential security threat.

The troops also were expected to help deliver aid to the mountains of Quezon, one of the provinces worst hit by successive storms and typhoons late last year. More than 1,000 people died in landslides and flash floods.

The troops will construct new school buildings and provide medical and dental services to communities in nearby Laguna province, officials said.

Communist guerrillas have said the relief operations could be a pretext by U.S. troops to intrude into rural New People's Army strongholds in the two provinces to spy on — and help crush — the Marxist rebel movement.

They said they were "ready to fight U.S. combat troops that help the [military] trample on human rights and kill Filipinos."

U.S. Charge d'Affaires Joseph Musumeli said there was no need to bolster the regular security provided to American troops on military exercises. "We think it's mostly just talk," he said of the rebel threat.

He criticized the guerrillas for threatening an activity aimed at helping the poor.

The joint military exercises are allowed under a Mutual Defense Treaty and another agreement that authorizes temporary visits of U.S. troops to the Philippines, a former U.S. colony.

The guerrillas have been waging a Marxist-inspired insurrection for more than three decades and are on U.S. and European Union lists of terrorist organizations.

### Scholarship increase

STUTTGART, Germany — The Stuttgart chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association has more than doubled the amount of its annual scholarship, chapter representatives announced this month.

The Stuttgart AFCEA said it will give away \$10,000 in scholarship money this spring. The scholarship is given to students who submit extracurricular projects relating to communications, electronics or computer technology.

The AFCEA has several chapters connected to U.S. military communities in Europe, and dozens across the continent.

The deadline for Stuttgart-area students to submit projects to this year's contest is April 1, said local organizer Andrea Bowers.

From staff reports

## Brother of WWII fighter learns his remains ID'd

The Associated Press

MISSION, Texas — The brother of a Navy crewman from South Texas who was killed during World War II says he would like his sibling's remains to be buried with his fallen comrades.

James "Red" Hall, 87, learned through an article in Sunday's edition of *The (McAllen, Texas) Monitor* that the Navy had recovered and identified the remains of his brother, whose plane was shot down over western Alaska in 1942.

The remains of Seaman 2nd Class Dee Hall and six other crewmen were found about four years ago on the northwest face of Kiska Volcano in the Aleutian Islands of western Alaska.

Red Hall said he was surprised by the news because someone had told his father that Japanese forces had buried the bodies and the government had later moved them to an Alaskan cemetery.

Red Hall, who now lives in McKinney, said his father had wanted to try to bring his brother's remains home to Mission, but he talked the father out of it.

Red Hall said he would like his brother to be buried in a government cemetery with his crewmates.



RUSS RIZZO/Stars and Stripes



TODD GOODMAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**Above:** First lady Laura Bush presents a presidential pin to Spe. Garrett Larson, of the 16th Field Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, during her visit Tuesday to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, before heading to Ramstein Air Base for a speech. Larson was being treated at Landstuhl for injuries he received in Iraq.

**Left:** Later Tuesday morning, Bush speaks to about 1,500 members of the Kaiserslautern military community in an Air Force hangar at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

# First lady rallies troops, families at Ramstein

BY RUSS RIZZO

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — First lady Laura Bush thanked servicemembers and families who "serve without a paycheck," during her first visit to Ramstein Air Base on Tuesday morning.

Calling the Kaiserslautern military community a "testament to the partnership" between Germany and the United States, Bush told the crowd of about 1,500 people that troops are delivering freedom across the globe.

"Each of you has a greater impact than you can ever imagine on people that you will only know for a brief time," Bush said from a stage set up inside an Air Force hangar. "And all of you are delivering the greatest gift they'll ever receive by sacrificing your own comfort, your own safety and your own lives."

About 30 handpicked spouses of men and women who were deployed to, or had recently returned from, Iraq sat in chairs in front of Bush as she spoke. Others sat beside uniformed soldiers on stage behind the first lady.

"All of those who serve in our military deserve our utmost respect," Bush said. "And so do those who serve without a paycheck and well behind the front lines: our military families."

"I know a little bit about having your life turned upside down because the person you love wants to serve the country he loves."

The first lady is accompanying President Bush on his four-day tour of Europe. After her stop in Ramstein, she traveled to Wiesbaden to meet with Department of Defense Dependents Schools teachers, students and their parents.

Before giving her speech at Ramstein, she visited about 20 injured servicemembers at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center who were wounded in combat in Iraq, hospital spokeswoman Marie Shaw said. Media access was limited to NBC cameras, Shaw said.

After the speech, Bush ate a roast beef lunch at Ramstein's General Cannon Hotel with a group of military spouses.

"It wasn't just a canned speech of, 'Rah-rah, look what we've done,'" said Stacy Shipman, a key spouse for the 86th Maintenance Squadron based in Ramstein. "You really got the sense she knows what we're going through."

Still, Shipman and the squadron's other key spouse, Lynda Davis, said they had hoped Bush would address ways the government would ease the child-care prob-

lems military families face. Davis said she had difficulty finding summer and after-school programs for her 13-year-old daughter.

Maj. Kathy McKaig, a nurse in the 328th Combat Support Hospital Reserve unit out of Salt Lake City, said she had hoped to meet Bush at Landstuhl, where the first lady was scheduled to meet with the family of one of her patients. But McKaig had the day off, so she went to Ramstein to meet Bush.

At the end of the event, McKaig posed for a picture with Bush and then flumbed through her purse for something for the first lady to sign.

In black cursive writing, "Laura Bush" now adorns the back of McKaig's bus schedule.

A transcript of Laura Bush's speech is available at: [www.whitehouse.gov/firstlady](http://www.whitehouse.gov/firstlady)  
E-mail Russ Rizzo at: [rizzo@mail.stripes.osd.mil](mailto:rizzo@mail.stripes.osd.mil)

# High school gives Bush an A for 'homework'

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — First lady Laura Bush gave a 20-minute speech to cheering students in the auditorium of Gen. H.H. Arnold High School on Tuesday.

In the pep rally-like atmosphere, the first lady gave thanks to the students for making their military families strong and offered some advice.

More than half of the school's student body volunteered to stay late after school to hear, and possibly meet, her.

"I don't know why everyone didn't come. This is a great opportunity," said sophomore Elizabeth Smith, 15. Elizabeth was one of the 400 students to sign up for the visit out of the 600-student populace.

"Her visit shows the students that the government really does care about things other than politics," Elizabeth said.

Standing before a wall of desert

camouflage, American and German flags, and the student leadership, Bush stressed the importance of having a strong family base at home for deployed troops. She said that base makes the difference in their parent's deployment.

Bush asked students to remember what their parents are doing during these missions.

"Your moms and dads are providing whole villages their first taste of clean water. ... Thanks to your parents, little girls in Afghanistan who have not had an education at all are going to school for the first time in their lives," she said.

Chris Garcia, an Air Force technical sergeant in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, said he has been stationed with his family in Germany for the past 13 years and agrees with the first lady that a strong family makes for a strong servicemember.

"My favorite part was when



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

**First lady Laura Bush greets teachers and students at Gen. H.H. Arnold High School in Wiesbaden, Germany, on Tuesday.**

she congratulated the men and women serving overseas," he said.

Bush impressed many students when she went into specifics. She congratulated the football team for its recent Division I champion-

ship; noted how hard "Frau Pow's" German class was; and sent well wishes to senior Paul Fry, who will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

"She was dead on. She really

did her homework to become familiar with our school," said Amanda Fischer, 16.

Bush left the students with three bits of advice: Treasure your education and keep it going throughout life, learn from your mistakes and appreciate the little things in life.

Before leaving the stage, Bush gave the seniors a little nod by warning the lower classmen to keep their feet off the Warrior school crest. The seniors erupted in applause.

"Her speech struck me in good way. She gave us motivation and confidence," said 11th-grader Alan Carrillo, 16. He said he'd be sure to stay away from the crest.

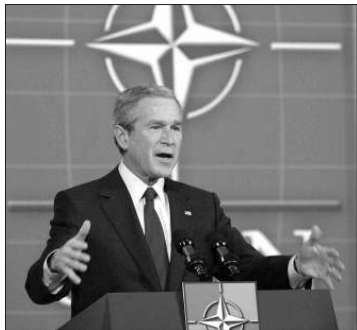
After the speech, students clamored around the first lady for brief conversations and pictures.

"To top off the event, 'American Idol' runner-up Diana DeGarmo sang several songs and signed autographs for ecstatic fans."

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: [inigo@mail.stripes.osd.mil](mailto:inigo@mail.stripes.osd.mil)

## IN THE WORLD

## Bush hails NATO support for training of Iraqis



President Bush answers a question during a joint news conference with NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer in Brussels, Belgium.

BY TOM RAUM  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — President Bush, working to cement an era of stronger U.S.-European relations after the divisiveness of Iraq, hailed NATO's modest pledge to help train security forces there Tuesday, saying "every contribution helps."

"The NATO training mission is an important mission, because after all, the success of Iraq depends upon the capacity and the willingness of the Iraqis to defend their own selves against terrorists," Bush said during a news conference at NATO headquarters here.

But French President Jacques Chirac, while stressing that NATO has been struggling for months to get a commitment from all allies to join the mission in Iraq.

The development of a reliable Iraqi security force, so that Iraqis can handle their own security, is considered vital to lowering the

## Activists protest at Lockheed Martin

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Anti-nuclear protesters carrying toy soldiers, drums and cow bells shoved their way into the office of U.S. defense contractor Lockheed Martin on Tuesday.

The protest was one of several planned for the second day of President Bush's meetings in Brussels with European Union and NATO leaders. Riot police surrounded NATO headquarters and closed off the main avenue as police helicopters watched from above. A similar security cordon was set up outside EU headquarters four miles away. Several hundred demonstrators — far fewer than expected — were kept at a block from the EU building.

U.S. troop presence there. Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, the general in charge of training Iraqi troops, has said that about 136,000 Iraqi military, police and national guard members have been trained and equipped — fewer than half the ultimate goal of a force of about 270,000.

NATO's secretary-general said all members of the alliance would help train Iraq's military.

"All 26 allies are working together to respond to the Iraqi government's request for support by training Iraqi security forces, providing equipment and helping to fund NATO's efforts," Jaap de Hoop Scheffer told the NATO summit.

The mission comprises just over 100 instructors training senior Iraqi officers in Baghdad's heavily protected "Green Zone." More than half the NATO instructors are American.

Alliance planners hope to expand that operation to 160 instructors, which they say is adequate for the current phase of the mission. They hope for a further expansion in September to allow NATO to help run a military acad-

emy outside the Iraqi capital — if it can find the troops and money needed.

NATO officials said allies had also put up more than \$4.55 million for a trust fund to cover transport and expenses of Iraqi officers traveling to NATO training posts outside the country.

Allied nations will cover their own costs for training inside and outside the country.

Bush said the assistance is more than a mere gesture designed to symbolize the end to bitter divisions wrought by the war.

The European Union, concluding a summit meeting with Bush, offered to stage a conference to rally international support for Iraq together with the United States.

Also on Tuesday, Bush said that it is "simply ridiculous" to assume that the United States has plans to attack Iran over its alleged nuclear weapons program after discussing the issue with European allies.

"This notion that the United States is getting ready to attack Iran is simply ridiculous. Having said that, all options are on the table," Bush said.

## President: NATO might be open to Ukraine as new democracy

BY TERENCE HUNT

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — President Bush suggested Tuesday after his first meeting with Ukraine's new West-leaning president, Viktor Yushchenko, that NATO might admit the former Soviet Republic if it adopts stronger, more open democratic systems.

Bush pledged U.S. assistance to help rid the Ukraine of rocket-propelled anti-aircraft missiles, called MANPADs, and other weapons that could be used by terrorists. And he said NATO would help the country adopt democratic institutions.

"The country's got work to do," Bush said after a NATO summit here. "But we want to help them achieve that work."

In a sign of support for Yushchenko, who took over the presidency after pro-democracy demonstrations forced a repeat election in December, he was the only nonalliance leader invited to the NATO meeting.

Bush, who was seated next to Yushchenko during the summit

and met with him in a brief one-on-one session beforehand, appeared struck by his encounter with a fellow leader "who had just led a revolution — a peaceful revolution based upon the same values that we hold dear."

He said the alliance leaders "reminded him that NATO is a performance-based organization and that the door is open, but it's up to President Yushchenko and his government and the people of the Ukraine to adapt the institutions of a democratic state."

NATO's secretary-general Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, standing next to Bush, also talked about the alliance's "open door" for "European democracies who fulfill the obligations."

There is strong support among NATO members to help Ukraine in its "challenging endeavor" to make progress, he said.

Yushchenko said he would like the Ukraine to become a member of the alliance, as well as the European Union. But he also sought to reassure Russia, which has been concerned that he will try to take the country out of its sphere of influence.

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# At least 420 killed in Iran quake

## Villagers search for survivors after magnitude 6.4 temblor

BY NASSER KARIMI  
The Associated Press

SARBAGH, Iran — Under a cold, driving rain, survivors wailed over the bodies of the dead and dug through the ruins of mud-brick houses searching for the loved ones after a powerful earthquake flattened villages in central Iran on Tuesday, killing at least 420 people.

The toll was expected to rise as rescue teams still did not have a final count from the three most isolated villages in the mountainous region. Around 30,000 people were affected, many left homeless when some villages were reduced to piles of dirt and stone by the 6.4-magnitude earthquake.

"Where have you gone? I had a lot of plans for you," Hossein Golestani sang softly to the lifeless form of his 7-year-old daughter, Fatima, held in his arms. The body of his 8-year-old daughter Marjam lay beside him in the devastated village of Hotkan.

Golestani and his wife were out tending

their herd of goats when the quake struck at 5:55 a.m. wrecking their home. Other survivors slapped their faces in grief as they sat next to the dead, wrapped in blankets in hospital morgues or on roadsides.

Some 40 villages were damaged in the quake, which struck a region 150 miles from Bam, site of a devastating earthquake in December 2003 that killed 26,000 people and leveled the historic city.

As nighttime came, temperatures fell and rain turned to snow in parts of the mountains, and survivors huddled around fires to keep warm, covering themselves in blankets and sipping hot soup. Some 1,500 workers from the Iranian Red Crescent fanned out in teams, bringing tents and tarps.

Heavy rain and bad visibility were hampering relief efforts. But Mohammad Javad Fadaei, deputy governor of Kerman province, said the search for the dead and missing would continue through the night in Hotkan and two other villages, Sarbagh and Dabouehi, which rescue workers had the most difficulty reaching.

Rescue efforts were finished in other villages, he told The Associated Press.

The quake was centered on the outskirts of Zaranud, a town of about 15,000 people in Kerman province about 600 miles southeast of the capital Tehran, Iran's geological authority said.

Though comparable in strength to the 6.6-magnitude Bam quake, Tuesday's quake hit a more sparsely populated area and was centered far deeper — 25 miles compared to six miles for Bam — limiting the damage.

Still, the tiny villages that dot the central mountains — most of them made in fragile mud brick — were hard hit. In Douheh, every building except a mosque with a golden dome had collapsed. At least 80 percent of the buildings in Sarbagh were leveled.

Fadaei said the death toll stood at 420, with some 900 injured.

Residents of Khanook village carried bodies to the morgue for washing before burial. Others crowded around lists of the dead posted on the morgue's wall, breaking into cries if they found a relative's name.



A villager injured by an earthquake Tuesday searches his damaged house for goods in on the outskirts of Zaranud, Iran. A powerful earthquake shook central Iran on Tuesday, destroying villages.

# Indonesia says fewer bodies turning up as Japan offers advice on warning system

BY MARGIE MASON  
The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Indonesian aid workers Tuesday they were recovering fewer bodies each day from the debris of tsunami-devastated Aceh province, as Japanese experts held up their nation's wave warning system as a model for a new regional alert network.

At a U.N.-sponsored seminar in Tokyo, officials from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and other Indian Ocean countries hit by the Dec. 26 tsunami listened to presentations by Japanese meteorological, disaster and environmental officials on how Japan protects itself from the killer waves.

"We will always be faced with hazards and risks ... but obviously through a growing understanding and ability we hope to minimize the likelihood and consequences of disaster," said Terry Jeggle, Senior Officer at U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. In Indonesia — which bore the brunt of the disaster, aid workers said more than 1,850 volunteers continue to search for bodies amid the rubble after the magnitude-9.0 earthquake and tsunami waves pounded Aceh, but fewer were being found each day.

The operation initially was expected to finish by the end of February, but that date will be re-evaluated later this week to determine whether to extend the search, said Eka Susila of the Indonesia Red Cross.

The Asian tsunami disaster killed between 170,088 and 182,334 people in 11 nations, with more than two-thirds of the victims in Aceh. Officials of those many people are still missing, though officials say it's too early to add them to the toll.



An Acehese here waits in line in front of a food distribution center Tuesday in tsunami-ravaged Banda Aceh, Indonesia. The Indonesian government said it plans to continue moving refugees from their camps to semi-permanent barracks which they are building.

But minimizing such tragedies in the future was the focus of the conference in Tokyo, where discussions were held on technology aimed at providing timely tsunami warnings. Officials have said that had such a system been in place in the Indian Ocean, thousands of lives could have been spared.

Jeggle said technology is a vital tool but education and awareness of the risks were even more important.

civil partnerships. After a 15-day waiting period, they will sign an official partnership document in front of witnesses.

## British anti-terror measures

LONDON — The British government Tuesday asked for renewed powers to detain terrorist suspects without trial, citing the "continuing and serious threat" to the country.

The government needs the legislation on the statute book by March 14, when a current law allowing the government to jail foreign terror suspects indefinitely without trial expires.

Home Secretary Charles Clarke insists the new powers

# U.N.: Development not enough in Afghanistan

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan remains the world's sixth-least developed country, the United Nations said Monday, warning that a nation that became a haven for international terrorists could fall again unless more is done to improve the lives of its long-suffering citizens.

In a wide-ranging report that measures Afghans' personal security, welfare and ability to control their own lives, the world body ranked the country 173rd out of 178 assessed in 2004. The five states that fared worse are in sub-Saharan Africa.

While landmark October elections showed Afghanistan's political progress, the report urged President Hamid Karzai and his international backers to redouble their efforts to tackle miserable health and education standards, as well as growing inequality which could fuel fresh conflict.

"Sustained peace in Afghanistan is not guaranteed despite the early successes in state-building," it said. "The price the inter-

national community would pay to protect itself from Afghanistan would be far greater than what it will pay to help develop the country."

Karzai wrote the foreword for the study, saying it would help craft better policy.

"Curbing corruption, bringing reconstruction gains to all regions of Afghanistan, drawing in foreign investment in a secure involvement and opening up the political process to participation remain the top priorities," Karzai wrote.

The 288-page report by the United Nations Development Program paints a mixed picture of the country's re-emergence since U.S. forces drove out the former ruling Taliban in late 2001.

On the plus side, Afghanistan's economy is booming, growing at least 25 percent annually since then and expected to expand by at least 10 percent a year in the next decade. Some 4 million children have enrolled in school — more than ever before — and more than 3 million people freed from their homes have returned, most from Pakistan and Iran.

## Gay civil unions in Britain

LONDON — Same-sex partners in Britain will be able to enter into civil unions beginning in December, joining gays in parts of Europe and the United States in obtaining many of the rights enjoyed by married people, the government said Monday.

The Civil Partnerships Bill passed by Parliament last year gives same-sex couples the right to form legally binding partnerships and entitles them to some of the same tax and pension rights married couples have.

Starting Dec. 5, couples will be able to notify the register office at their local council that they intend to form

— which would also include electronic tagging, curfews, bans on meeting certain people and using the Internet — are needed to safeguard Britain.

"Let no one be in any doubt that there are terrorists here and abroad that want to attack the U.K. and its interests," he said.

"Some believe that the absence in this country of a terrorist outrage like 9/11 or Madrid means that the terrorist threat has somehow passed us by or failed to materialize."

"That view is shortsighted, complacent, ignorant of the facts and potentially cavalier of the safety of this country."

From The Associated Press



# Party on, stogie: Cigar festival opens in Cuba

BY VANESSA ARRINGTON  
The Associated Press

HAVANA — Surrounded by live models posing as statues and elaborate, colorful decorations, hundreds of cigar aficionados from around the world gathered in one of Havana's most elegant museums to launch the island's annual Habanos Cigar Festival.

Participants from more than 50 countries mingled Monday at the National Museum of Fine Arts as they puffed away on Cuban stogies and watched energetic dance performances. Painted men in loinclothes posed on benches around the museum, where several different languages could be heard.

Officials from Habanos S.A., the Cuban cigar marketing firm, promised a "delirious" week of glamour and fun, to be filled with contests, cocktail nights and visits to tobacco plantations and the factories where Cuba's famous hand-rolled cigars are made.

More than 1,000 cigar merchants and others were expected to attend the festival, which culmi-



Olga Mikhailova, from Moscow, enjoys a cigar Monday during the opening of the Habanos Cigar Festival in Havana, Cuba. Participants from more than 50 countries came to honor and puff away on Cuban stogies.

nates Friday with a gala dinner that includes an auction of elaborate humidors fashioned of cedar wood and autographed by Cuban

President Fidel Castro.

This year's festival, the seventh of its kind, is dedicated to the 160th anniversary of Portagtas,

one of Cuba's leading cigar brands.

The event comes as the island's communist government is crack-

ing down on smoking in closed public places.

Acknowledging the health risk of tobacco, the government has prohibited smoking in theaters, schools and other public places earlier this month. Despite the new law, however, permission to smoke was obtained for all festival venues.

Castro himself gave up cigars decades ago, but continues to champion one of Cuba's most important exports, believed to be worth about \$300 million.

At the festival, the daughter of Romanian President Traian Basescu defended the moderate use of cigars, and said there was a budding market in Bucharest, where she manages a Casa del Habano shop.

"We are there to teach people it's not an addiction, it's a lifestyle," said Ioana Basescu Marin, 28, who traveled to Havana with her husband, a member of the pop-rock group Proculgare. "It's luxury, it's relaxing, something for the end of a busy day."

Cuban cigars are considered by many to be the world's best.

## 'Mermaid' baby prepared for surgery to separate fused legs

BY CARLA SALAZAR  
The Associated Press

LIMA, Peru — The father of a 19-month-old baby born with rare congenital defect called "mermaid's syndrome" said Monday she is doing well ahead of an operation to separate her fused legs.

Ricardo Cerron, 24, also said he dreads the danger she still faces. His daughter, Milagro, was born April 27 with sirenomelia.

On Feb. 8, three bags of silicone were inserted between the baby's ankles, knees and thighs during a three-hour operation.

The bags will be filled with saline

solution every three days to stretch the skin.

Milagro has been undergoing daily sessions in a hyperbaric chamber to improve blood circulation to her skin and the fat in her legs.

"We have gone through some difficult moments waiting," said Cerron. "The first operation was a little bad but the hyperbaric chamber sessions are going well."

Doctors said the operation will occur in 35 to 40 days but Milagro must first complete 20 days of hyperbaric treatment.

Milagro, which means "mira-

cles," was in the arms of her mother, 19-year-old Sara Arauco, during a visit by an Associated Press Television crew on Monday. The baby is one of only three known cases in which children with the condition are still alive.

While the surgical team is optimistic, the team's head, Dr. Luis Rubio, stressed the complications.

"This is an anatomy totally different from a normal anatomy," he said. "There are arteries that travel from the right leg to the left side, from the right thigh to the left [and] there are a connection of arteries at the level of the knees."



BENHA HOSPITAL/AP

Surgeons at Benha Hospital near Cairo, Egypt, have successfully removed an undeveloped twin attached to the back of 10-month-old Manar Maged, seen in an undated photo. On Monday, doctors said Manar was in stable condition but was still being carefully monitored.

## Egyptian infant stable after doctors remove second head

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — A 10-month-old girl was in stable condition Monday but still being carefully monitored for complications following intensive surgery last week to remove a second head that shared a blood vessel with her own brain.

Dr. Abia al-Alfi, senior consultant at the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit, said there has been "some stabilization" since

the surgery on Manar Maged on Saturday.

She said Manar had already been taken off medication to control post-surgery convulsions but other concerns remained, including the baby's liver, which had not functioned normally since the surgery.

The rare birth defect, craniopagus parasiticus, occurs when an embryo begins to split into identical twins but fails to complete the process, leaving an undeveloped conjoined twin in the womb.

## Testimony in death-by-lions trial

PHILADELPHIA, South Africa — The trial of three men accused of killing a former farm worker by throwing him into a den of lions heard Monday that the victim, Nelson Chisale, closed his eyes and prayed before he died.

Richard Mathebela, Simon Mathebela and Mark Scott-Crossley have all pleaded not guilty to murdering Chisale on January 31, 2004.

Chisale was a former worker on the farm but was dismissed. He was allegedly killed after he returned to collect some pots and other belongings.

## New edition of Hitler's 'Mein Kampf'

WARSAW, Poland — A Polish publisher is releasing a new edition of Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" amid tensions over some Germans' threats to seek the return of ancestral property lost when borders were shifted at the end of World War II.

The book details the Nazi dictator's anti-Semitic and other beliefs. Bogdan Michalski, a professor who wrote a preface to the volume, cited last year's spat over the property claims by a small group of Germans as one reason for reissuing the book.

From The Associated Press

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## IN THE STATES



**Motorists use cell phones to call for help after their cars were flooded on the Hollywood Freeway after a severe thunderstorm Monday in Los Angeles. The wild weather came from a series of storms that began battering California on Thursday, dumping 6.5 inches of rain in downtown Los Angeles.**

## More deadly weather in Calif.

At least six killed as several storms spawn tornadoes, landslides

BY DAISY NGUYEN  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A deadly series of storms across California spawned tornadoes, landslides and avalanches as persistent rain flooded freeways and golf courses and sent mud roaring into homes.

At least six people were killed. Forecasters said Tuesday that while the strong system would bring at least another inch of rain in Southern California, it was losing strength and could move out of the region by Wednesday afternoon.

"I think we've probably seen the worst of the storm," National Weather Service meteorologist Ted MacKenzie said. "We should start seeing a decrease in the activity."

A flash flood watch remained in effect across much of Southern California on Tuesday, the NWS said.

Authorities said Monday that dozens of homes were evacuated or red-tagged because they threatened to collapse from sliding hillsides.

Northern California also was hit by severe thunderstorms, hail and at least two afternoon tornadoes that caused minor damage in the Sacramento area. Trees were uprooted and roofs and fences damaged in the tornadoes, while residents reported seeing other funnel clouds in the area.

"The impact of the storm lifted my car up in the air and back down ... about 15 inches ... it was unbelievable," Woodrow Parker,

who was driving when the tornado hit, told KCRA-TV in Sacramento.

Off the coast of Santa Barbara, Harbor Patrol officers early Monday battled strong waves and winds to rescue Jim Catlin, a one-legged man who was stranded on a 27-foot-long boat that had been floating at sea with no mast for sails and no engine.

In Los Angeles, a section of the Hollywood Freeway was shut down for several hours late Monday when lanes were flooded in as much as five feet of water. Crews pumped the water out of the highway.

The wild weather came from a series of storms that began battering the state on Thursday, dumping 6.5 inches of rain in downtown Los Angeles.

## Va. man charged in alleged plot to assassinate Bush

BY MATTHEW BARAKAT  
The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A former Virginia high school valedictorian who has been detained in Saudi Arabia as a suspected terrorist was charged Tuesday with conspiring to assassinate President Bush and with supporting the al-Qaida terrorist network.

Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, 23, a U.S. citizen, made an initial appearance Tuesday in U.S. District Court but did not enter a plea.

He contended that he was tortured while detained in Saudi Arabia since June 2003 and offered to show the judge his scars.

The federal indictment said that in 2002 and 2003 Abu Ali and an unidentified co-conspirator discussed plans for Abu Ali to assassinate Bush. They discussed two scenarios, the indictment said, one in which Abu Ali "would get close enough to the president to shoot him on the street" and, alternatively, "an operation in which Abu Ali would detonate a car bomb."

The White House had no com-

ment on the indictment.

Abu Ali was born in Houston and moved to Falls Church, Va., where he was valedictorian of his high school class. Federal prosecutors say Abu Ali joined an al-Qaida cell in Saudi Arabia in 2001. The alleged Bush plot occurred while he was studying in that country.

His family contends that U.S. officials were behind his detention by Saudi authorities and wanted him held in that country so he could be tortured for information. A lawsuit brought on their behalf in U.S. District Court in Washington seeks to compel the government to disclose what it knows about Abu Ali and his detention.

Abu Ali's appearance in federal court here was a surprise because the government never publicly disclosed that he had left Saudi Arabia.

More than 100 supporters of Abu Ali crowded the courtroom Tuesday and laughed when the charge was read aloud alleging that he conspired to assassinate Bush.

Abu Ali is charged with six counts and would face a maximum of 80 years in prison if convicted. The charges include conspiracy to provide material support to al-Qaida, providing material support to al-Qaida, conspiracy to provide support to terrorists, providing material support to terrorists and contributing service to al-Qaida.



Abu Ali

## Bodies of mom, son

PORT WORTH, Texas — The bodies of a missing pregnant woman and her 7-year-old son were found Tuesday, hours after an ex-boyfriend was arrested and charged with murder, authorities said.

Bagel shop owner Lisa Underwood and her son, Jayden, were reported missing after she failed to show up at her baby shower Saturday. A pool of blood was found in her home, but there was no sign of forced entry, police said.

The bodies were in Denton, police Lt. Gene Jones said Tuesday. Underwood's SUV was found near the town on Monday, partially submerged in a creek.

Stephen Barbee, 37, was arrested Monday night.

Jones said he didn't know who was the father of Underwood's fetus, but a neighbor of Underwood, Debbie Lindley, said it was Barbee.

Lindley said Underwood and Barbee split up last fall but because Barbee had another girlfriend, but she didn't know of any violent incidents between the couple.

From The Associated Press

## High court to hear challenge to Ore. assisted suicide law

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Tuesday it will hear a challenge to the nation's only assisted suicide law, taking up the Bush administration's appeal to stop doctors from helping terminally ill patients die more quickly.

Justices will review a lower court ruling that said the U.S. government cannot sanction or hold doctors criminally liable for prescribing overdoses under Oregon's voter-approved Death with Dignity Act. Since 1998, more than 170 people — most with cancer — have used the law to end their lives.

Arguments will be heard in the court's next term, beginning in October.

Oregon officials immediately decried the Supreme Court's move as trampling on state's rights.

"I am disappointed," said Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski. "The people of Oregon have approved Oregon's Death with Dignity Act not once, but twice, and the lower courts have upheld Oregon's law not once, but twice."

Oregon voters approved the law in 1994 and overwhelmingly affirmed it three years later when it was returned to the ballot following a failed legal challenge.

The law allows terminally ill patients with less than six months to live to request a lethal dose of drugs. Two doctors must confirm the diagnosis and determine the patient to be mentally competent to make the request.

Also Tuesday, the Supreme Court

Expressed serious doubts whether the court has the authority to protect some residents in New London, Conn., who face losing their homes to the city's ambitious program for economic revitalization.

■ Rejected a challenge to its landmark 1973 ruling legalizing abortion by the woman once known as "Jane Roe," who was at the center of the historic case.

■ Declined to review whether the parents of a teen killed in the Columbine High School shootings can back out of a settlement with the gunmen's parents and others.

■ Declined to review the constitutionality of an Alabama law banning the sale of sex toys, rejecting an appeal that said consumers have a right to sexual privacy.

■ Agreed to consider whether meat-processing plants must pay their slaughterhouse workers for the time it takes to change into protective clothing and walk to their work stations.

## Flurry of stays complicates Fla. right-to-die case

The Associated Press

DUNEDIN, Fla. — The case of a severely brain-damaged woman remained locked in a legal stalemate Tuesday after an appeals court cleared the way for her husband to remove her feeding tube, only to see a judge promptly block the removal for at least another day.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal offered no specific instructions in a one-page mandate issued in the case of Terri Schiavo, who was left brain damaged 15 years ago. That meant her husband, Michael Schiavo, could order her wife's tube be removed.

But Pinellas Circuit Court Judge George Greer later issued an emergency stay blocking removal of the feeding tube until 5 p.m. EST Wednesday. Greer, who has been overseeing the long-standing dispute, scheduled a hearing on the case for early Wednesday.

Terri Schiavo's parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, are trying to file additional legal pleadings in the case.

It would likely take several days for Terri Schiavo to die if the tube is pulled.

# Officials: Bird flu may mutate

## Human form of illness could be pandemic

BY PAUL RECER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A bird flu virus may mutate to a human form that becomes as deadly as the ones that killed millions during three influenza pandemics of the 20th century.

Dr. Julie L. Gerberding, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Monday that scientists believe it is highly likely that the virus that has swept through bird populations in Asia will evolve into a pathogen deadly for humans.

"We are expecting more human cases over the next few weeks because this is high season for avian influenza in that part of the world," Gerberding said in remarks at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Although cases of human-to-human transmission have been rare, "our assessment is that this is a very high threat" based on the known history of the flu virus, she said.

In Asia, there have already been a number of deaths among people who caught the flu from chickens or ducks. The mortality rate is high — about 72 percent of identified patients, said Gerberding. There also have been documented cases of this strain of flu being transferred from person-to-person,

but the outbreak was not sustained, she said.

The avian flu now spreading in Asia is part of what is called the H1 family of flu viruses. It is a pathogen that is notorious in human history.

"Each time we see a new H1 antigen emerge, we experience a pandemic of influenza," said Gerberding. In 1918, H1 appeared and millions died worldwide. In 1957, the Asian flu was an H2, and the Hong Kong flu in 1968 was an H3.

There had been small appearances of the H1-type of avian viruses in other years, but nothing like the H5 now rampaging through the birds of Asia.

"We are seeing a highly pathogenic strain of influenza virus emerge to an extraordinary proportion across the entire western component of Asia," she said. "The reason this is so ominous is because of the evolution of flu. ... You may see the emergence of a new strain to which the human population has no immunity."

Study already has shown that the virus can infect cats who can then infect other cats, which Gerberding said was "another harbinger" of the possibility of a human pandemic.

"The science here is all alerting us that we have a great deal to be concerned about," she said.

The CDC chief said her agency is getting ready for a possible pandemic next year.



Rows of chickens are seen at a farm in the Mekong Delta in southern Vietnam where last year's entire flock of 23,000 chickens needed to be destroyed due to the deadly bird flu.

### Alleged serial rapist

DENVER — Investigators could have linked a convicted child molester to a sexual assault using DNA evidence at least two months before he allegedly went on a rape spree, but a computer glitch prevented it, authorities said.

Brents Brents, 35, was arrested Friday on suspicion he sexually assaulted at least five women and girls this month in the Denver area. He is also suspected of raping a woman in October, a federal arrest warrant shows. Formal charges have not been filed.

Dave Fisher, who oversees police investigations for the city, said "bad timing" and computer problems prevented police from arresting Brents earlier.

Brents' DNA profile is in a state database containing information on 37,000 offenders because he was convicted of raping two children in 1988. Investigators would have been able to identify him had a DNA sample collected from an October rape been entered into the contractor's database.

### Patient list e-mailed

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — County officials are "99 percent sure" a confidential list of thousands of AIDS patients and people with HIV never got outside their control after it was mistakenly e-mailed to health workers, a spokesman said.

Only 10 Palm Beach County Health Department workers opened the message — which contained the names of 4,000 AIDS patients and 2,500 people with HIV — and technicians confirmed none were saved, printed, forwarded, or stored, spokesman Tim O'Connor said. "It doesn't look like it got outside at all," he said Monday. "We're like 99 percent sure right now."

John W. "Jack" Nolan, the county's top HIV statistician, accidentally attached the list to a monthly statistics report that was sent by e-mail to 800 employees. Nolan could face disciplinary action, but not prosecution.

### Disco floor for sale

NEW YORK — The flashing, colorful Brooklyn dance floor where John Travolta strutted and hustled in "Saturday Night Fever" is set to be auctioned off, said the owner of the nightclub where it was built.

The floor, which was the centerpiece of Bay Ridge's 2001 Odyssey, was saved by owner Jay Rizzo after it closed last week when it was sold to a real estate investment company.

"Over the years, we've had thousands of people who come here just to see it," said Rizzo, who renamed the club Spectrum in 1987.

Memorabilia collectors are expected to send offers of more than \$80,000 for the floor.

From The Associated Press

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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## OPINION

## Dean's gaffe hurts standing with party base

**L**iberals were thrilled when Howard Dean was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee. They think the former Vermont governor will lead Democrats out of the political wilderness. Conservative Republicans were thrilled, too. They think he will plunge Democrats further into it.

Jack Kelly

Only rarely has a party chairman had much impact. Dean will have more than most, because there are few elected Democrats to share the spotlight with him. And Dean is energetic and a good quote, something few would say about Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the Democratic leader in the Senate, or Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, the Democratic leader in the House.

The initial success of Dean's presidential candidacy moved the Democratic Party to the left, which makes him an odd choice to recapture the center.

Journalists have started to describe Dean as a closet moderate, because he balanced the state budget. But the governor of Vermont — like the governor of virtually every other state — is constitutionally obligated to submit balanced budgets, and Dean typically did so by raising taxes. This makes him a "moderate" only in the parallel universe most journalists inhabit.

Two days after Dean's inauguration, Curtis Adams, a county commissioner in Tennessee, switched to the GOP, citing Dean as the reason. "He'll take the [Democratic] Party down all the way," Adams

told reporters.

A day after that, the senior black Democrat in the House of Representatives joined Republicans in criticizing Dean for making a racially insensitive remark.

While meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus, Dean said: "You think the Republicans could get this many people of color in a single room? Only if they had the hotel staff in here."

This drew predictable howls of outrage from Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, former Oklahoma Rep. J.C. Watts Jr. and other prominent black Republicans. But they were joined by Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., who said Dean should apologize if he offended anybody by suggesting blacks usually work as servants.

Dean was not exactly a favorite of African-Americans when he ran for president, and his joke isn't playing well with blacks who were miffed by the vituperative opposition of prominent Democrats to the nomination of Condoleezza Rice to be secretary of state.

Another bone of contention is Social Security reform, which (Democratic-friendly) pollster John Zogby said is popular with minorities.

"The Democrats are very busy turning 48 percent of the vote into free fall, and that's not easy to do," Zogby said.

"Free fall" sounds like hyperbole to me. As long as greed, stupidity and cowardice remain a part of the human condition, there will be a constituency for Democrats. But by lurching left under a lily-white limousine liberal with diarrhea of the mouth, the Democrats seem set on a course more likely to diminish than to expand their share of the vote in 2006 and beyond.

Republican prospects in 2006 and beyond will be shaped primarily by how

Americans view the job President Bush is doing. If the economy is strong and the war on terror is going well, GOP prospects will be bright. If not, then the Democrats — for all their missteps — will be competitive.

But the GOP future also will be shaped by political choices Republicans make. Democrats are competitive in national elections primarily because of the strange hold they have on the black vote. If Republicans could get 15 percent of the black vote, Democrats could never again win the presidency. If Republicans could get 20 percent of the black vote, the very existence of the Democratic Party would be in doubt.

According to Washington gossip, President Bush has begun referring to Rice in

private as "44," as in the 44th president. Bush probably is joking, but it would be a good thing for the GOP if he isn't. The best way to blunt a Hillary Clinton candidacy would be for the Republicans to nominate a woman of their own. Could Rice get one black vote in six? Almost certainly. One black vote in five? Perhaps.

Movement already is under way. The Columbus Dispatch reported Feb. 20 that Walter Carter, one of the most prominent black Democrats in that Ohio city, has switched to the GOP. With a Rice candidacy, what is now a tricky could become a river, if not a flood.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in Toledo (Ohio). A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant of the state director in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Today's kids don't know what love's got to do with it

BY SUSANNA RODELL

The Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette

**I**'m not worried about the amount of sex that's floating around the American media. I'm worried about the kind of sex that's out there. I blame the religious right.

"What?" I can hear you exclaim. "Those guys are the ones making the loudest noises about obscenity. They're the ones calling for crackdowns on nasty talk radio and the sex songs lyrics. They're the ones trying to protect our children!" Bear with me.

Recent analyses of who's watching the nasty reality TV series have turned up some interesting information. Viewership of these shows is highest in the so-called red states, the ones that supposedly went to the Republicans and whose voters made their decisions on the basis of morality.

It makes sense to me. If you think sex is nasty, you're going to watch, with lurid fascination, material that supports that view. What makes me sad is that if you don't think sex is necessarily nasty, that it can be sweet and comforting and an exercise in trust, what do you have to look at? Where do you go? Not to the American media, that's for sure.

I sometimes wonder if this is the reason there's a resurgence now in popularity for the old standards, with guys like Tony Bennett making comebacks and hipsters like Elvis Costello recording them. My 12-year-old is into Frank Sinatra big time, and her favorite song in high school was "They Can't Take That Away From Me."

Much of the time, I feel sorry for my

kids. Their sexuality has blossomed in the midst of a culture whose icons are Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake and Eminem. The icons of my generation included Julie Christie and Diana Ross, neither of them champs but each of them, in her own much more subtle way, very sexy.

What is particularly interesting now is watching my generation's fashion statements reinterpreted. The shapes are the same: the low-cut, flared jeans, the wispy tops, the peasant touches.

What's gone, whether it's in the fashions or the entertainment itself, is any sense of restraint. You might find this amusing coming from a child of the '60s, but I stand by it. There was some kind of awareness, for

instance, that if you were female and you weighed more than 160 pounds, the low-rise-jeans-bare-midriff look was probably not for you. You went for the flowing peasant skirts instead.

Sex was there, oh, it certainly was, and it wasn't always the right kind in the right place at the right time.

But you could still be sweet about it. And it could be sweetly depicted, whether in a Grateful Dead song or in movies such as "A Man and a Woman" or "Doctor Zhivago." Even in the ones that scripted clearly dysfunctional or exploitative relationships, such as "Affie" or "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" there was a built-in recognition: This is not how it's supposed to be. It can be better. There can be love.

I'm not at all sure kids are getting that message now, and it worries me a lot. The link between sex and emotion and vulnerability seems to have been lost entirely, forced into some new closet where young people are forced to hide with each other.

I don't believe the kids themselves are any less vulnerable, silly or prone to making potentially life-damaging mistakes. But the images they have to choose from seem, perhaps backhandedly, to confirm the religious right's intolerance for anything sexual. It seems the ground is shrinking where they can meet as humans and look at their sexuality with anything more complex than a leer.

I'm sad for them.

Susanna Rodell is editorial-page editor of The Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

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The body of Shirley Vian is carried from her house in Wichita, Kan., in 1977 after she was murdered. It was linked to the BTK serial killer.

# New BTK letters to media, cops show 'different' killer

BY ROXANA HEGEMAN  
The Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — The letters and poems began arriving in 1974. Shot through with spelling and grammatical errors, they alternated between tortured rambling and cold-blooded, gleeful detail.

Then, the BTK killer — since linked to eight unsolved killings between 1974 and 1986 — vanished. But he resurfaced last March with new letters to police and media and, although still enigmatic, they have a new tone.

The frequency of the new communications and the accompanying attention concern at least one researcher.

"For some of these killers, there is kind of a cycle that once the spiral begins to accelerate, the next step is to kill and get a whole new generation of people scared," said Dirk Gibson, author of "Clues from Killers: Serial Murder and Crime Scene Messages."

The killer once raved about his inability to control a "monster" living inside him and gave graphic descriptions of his crimes. The few details released about the

new messages indicate a businesslike, almost cordial approach.

Officials said last week the killer had recently sent at least three packages containing jewelry, and investigators were trying to determine whether any of it was taken from BTK's victims.

Along with a padded manila envelope sent to KSAS-TV in Wichita, the communications included a cereal box found in a rural area northwest of Wichita in late January and a package found a few days later that police identified only as Communication No. 7.

Gibson, who has studied more than 500 serial killers, said BTK leaks the attention. That was already apparent in the 1970s, when the self-named BTK — the initials stand for "Bind, Torture, Kill" — terrorized Wichita.

When one of his messages, a poem sent to the Wichita Eagle-Beacon on Jan. 31, 1978, was mistakenly routed to the classified ads department, BTK sent a letter to KAKE-TV days later complaining: "How many do I have to kill before I get my name in the paper or some national attention?"

Another letter to the newspaper also underscored BTK's need for recognition.

"P.S. How about some name for me, its time: 7 down and many more to go," it read in part.

KAKE-TV has also received communications from BTK since his re-emergence, some of which contain messages for police.

But the tenor has changed: In a postcard sent earlier this month, BTK thanked the station for its quick response to two other messages and expressed concern for two news anchors after a passing comment one made on the air about having the flu.

Randy Brown, a senior fellow at Wichita State University's Elliott School of Journalism, was a reporter at the now-defunct Wichita Sun when the weekly paper first broke the story about BTK in the 1970s.

"This is a very different BTK than the original," Brown said. "The first letters were full of horrifying details of these crimes, ravings and very graphic information about the victims — ugly, nasty, scary, terrible kinds of things that people who saw them still have bad dreams about."

No recent deaths have been officially linked to BTK since he resurfaced last year.

# Notorious accomplice Pamela Smart seeks pardon

The Associated Press

BEDFORD HILLS, N.Y. — Pamela Smart says media attention helped land her in prison, but now her lawyers hope it will help get her out.

Smart, 38, has asked Gov. John Lynch and the Executive Council to pardon her from the life without parole sentence she received after being convicted in 1991 of convincing her teen lover and his friends to murder her husband a year earlier.

She has granted few media interviews, but Smart's lawyers are urging her to talk

publicly as her pardon request comes before the state — especially about the fact that she's serving life without parole for being an accomplice to first-degree murder while the confessed murderer, Billy Flynn, has a shorter sentence.

Smart said she has declined other requests, according to the Portsmouth Herald.

"She's sick of her own story, she says, adding, 'They hate me in New Hampshire,'" the paper reported.

Smart still denies involvement in the

plot, but she says she regrets her affair with Flynn, who was 15 at the time.

She has argued in several rejected appeals — and the current pardon request — that she did not get a fair trial, in part because of the pervasive media coverage. She also maintains the sentence was too harsh.

Smart said the commutation request is largely the effort of her mother, Linda Wojas, who has made her daughter's fate her own life's work. Because of that, Smart says she's considered suicide several times, so her mother could bury her and

have her own life back.

Smart has earned two masters degrees behind bars — one in literature, the other in law. But she insists she is no model prisoner, learning from fellow inmates how to commit a host of crimes and having bad fights with inmates.

Meanwhile, the attorney general's office in New Hampshire has been collecting opinions on Smart's pardon request from the trial judge, prosecutors, the victim's family and prison officials. The governor and Executive Council will decide whether to hold a hearing.

# Woman pays \$437,000 for 1792 penny

The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — A copper penny minted in 1792 and kept in a tobacco tin for decades was sold to a New Yorker for \$437,000 at an auction Monday.

Anthony Terranova was the highest bidder, said Donn Pearlman, spokesman for Beverly Hills auction house Ira & Larry Goldberg Coins & Collectibles Inc.

The purchase price also included a 15 percent buyer's fee.

The penny's owners were descendants of Oliver Wolcott, the governor of Connecticut in the 1790s and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, according to auctioneer Ira Goldberg.



This experimental copper penny — made by the United States Mint in Philadelphia in 1792 — was purchased Monday at an auction for \$437,000. It is the ninth known coin of its type.

"The historical importance of this coin cannot be overstated," said Michael Sherman, vice president of Professional Coin Grading Service, which directed a team of experts who authenticated the coin.

The chocolate-colored penny, the ninth known example of its type, bears the date "1792," an in-



IRA & LARRY GOLDBERG COIN & COLLECTIBLES INC./AP

scription "Parent of Science & Industry: Liberty," and the likeness of a woman's head representing Miss Liberty, Goldberg said.

The owners surprised collectors with its existence in August when they brought the valuable penny to the American Numismatic Association World's Fair of Money convention in Pittsburgh.

# Sneakerheads show devotion to rare Nikes at NBA contest

The Associated Press

DENVER — Some people collect baseball cards, some collect cars. Ruben Santamaria collects shoes — Air Jordans, to be specific.

He spends about \$2,000 a month adding to a collection that already takes up three-fourths of his bedroom. There's just enough room left for the bed and path to it.

Sometimes I go without eating or toilet paper. Even my girlfriend, she wants to kick me out of the apartment," said Santamaria, 27. "It's kind of ridiculous, I know."

This week, he drove nonstop for two days from San Antonio to Denver for a contest coinciding with the NBA All-Star game. The prize for the best collection of rare, pristine Nikes — from Air Jordans to Air Force 1s — was a

one-of-a-kind pair lased with the winner's name.

Ten competitors, chosen from dozens of applicants nationwide, displayed a total of 150 pairs of shoes. The collection was worth \$70,000 to \$80,000, said Steve Mulholland, publisher and editor of Sole Collector magazine, the contest sponsor.

Santamaria garnered bragging rights as Friday night's winner. "I got a lot of respect from sneakerheads. I'm glad I made it out here," he said.

For collectors, such contests are a chance to gauge how their kicks stack up to the competition, and to connect with others who understand the passion for sneakers — a phenomenon linked to the hip-hop scene of the early 1980s and former NBA star Michael Jordan. At 29, Bru has roughly 200 pairs in his collection. He wouldn't say how much he spends.

# School nurses cite lack of disaster training

BY JOE MILICIA

The Associated Press

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — Long associated with treating playground scrapes and tummy aches, school nurses across the United States say they need to be more prepared for emergencies such as terrorist attacks.

Many are trying to work around tight school budgets and a lack of respect as front-line responders to get the training needed to prepare for the worst.

"Because of 9/11, so many things have changed," said Kathy Steffey, a nurse at Lakeview High School in Cortland, Ohio. "We have to be prepared for almost anything."

Nearly half the nurses who responded to a National Association of School Nurses survey listed emergency preparedness as their highest priority. But, disaster preparedness trainer Deborah Strouse noted that many American schools don't even have a full-time nurse or health services.

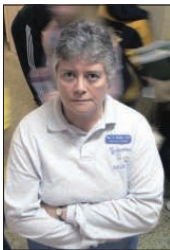
"They're really on the front line before even the [emergency worker] gets there," said Wanda Miller, executive director of the school nurses association. "They are the person that has to react, has to be prepared and must have some kind of plan in place to manage the situations that occur."

Schools were recognized as potential terrorist targets long before the seizure of a Russian school in September in which 330 hostages were killed.

Many developed disaster plans

following the Columbine school shootings in Colorado in 1999 or the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Yet, they do not have the funding to train administrators and teachers on how to carry out the plans, said Julie Underwood, general counsel for the National School Boards Association.

Ohio's Columbus Public Schools is an exception. The district is using a \$454,000 grant from the Homeland Security Department to train a team of school personnel in each of its 140 schools to re-



Kathy Steffey, of Lakeview High School in Cortland, Ohio, is among school nurses calling for better training for emergencies such as terrorist attacks.

spond in an emergency, spokesman Greg Viebranz said.

"We'd like to be considered a model for our efforts," Viebranz said.

Other states are trying to catch up. Acting New Jersey Gov. Richard Codey, in his State of the State address last month, made protecting schools from terrorists a top priority. He said security experts would tour every school before next fall and that security courses would be taught to educators, bus drivers and nurses.

"Educators aren't terrorism experts ... but they want to protect our schools and we must help them," Codey said.

The National Association of School Nurses, which has about 12,500 members, has developed a disaster preparedness program to meet the demand for training — more than 2,000 school nurses have participated.

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## Chain-saw attacker shot

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — A man was shot and killed by police Monday after he ignored pepper spray and officers' commands and attacked a state trooper with a chain saw, authorities said.

At least 13 bullets struck William Henkle after state and local officers who had surrounded him opened fire, police said.

Henkle, 40, allegedly struck Trooper Michael Hartzel in the shoulder, lower back and buttocks with the saw. The trooper was treated for minor injuries at a hospital and released.

Henkle called 911 early Monday and said he was having a heart attack, but when police and an ambulance arrived, he was outside the house with the chain saw running, said Capt. Kenneth Hill, commander of the state police barracks at Wyoming.

About 10 state and local officers formed a semicircle around Henkle and ordered him to drop the chain saw, but he revved the saw and refused to put it down, Hill said.

Police said they used pepper spray, then fired when Henkle lunged at Hartzel.

From The Associated Press



## Man shot by police

**NY** NEW YORK — Police shot and killed a 38-year-old man after he allegedly pointed a firearm at them, authorities said.

Officers were patrolling the area near Baltic and Bond Streets in the Boerum Hill section of Brooklyn at about 12:10 a.m. recently when an unidentified man began running from them. When he turned and pointed a gun at the officers, three of the officers fired at him, striking him in the leg and rupturing an artery.

A .380-caliber handgun was recovered at the scene of the shooting, police said.

The man was taken to Long Island Community Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead, police said.

A police spokesman said the shooting appeared to be within department guidelines, but the incident was under investigation.

The suspect's name was withheld pending family notification.

## 90-year-old mailman

**NE** STAPLETON — Rain, sleet and snow have not kept Kermit Paxton from making his six-day-a-week journey to deliver mail. His recent 90th birthday didn't stop him either.

Monday through Saturday, Paxton rises early, gets in his truck and transports mail on the 70-plus mile round trip between Stapleton, Arnold and North Platte. He's been doing this for the past 27 years.

The retired rancher said there are some drawbacks to the job he otherwise enjoys. Sometimes the mail is very heavy.

Paxton apparently does not figure to retire any time soon. His mail delivery contract runs another two years.

## Very old parking ticket

**MI** FLINT — Jack Cramer was rummaging through piles of old stuff recently when he ran across a \$1 parking ticket he received while he was a college student.

Its date: July 26, 1954.

"I got a good laugh when I saw it, but then I thought, 'What if they're still trying to collect this?'" Cramer said.

Cramer said he called the Flint Police Department's traffic division to inform it of his find. He pledged to cover his outstanding debt.

He mailed the \$1 along with the ticket, no interest included.

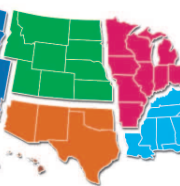
## Gay lawmaker's struggle

**VA** RICHMOND — Adam Ebbin is fighting to have his voice heard — no small feat during what some consider the most anti-gay legislative session in state history.

"People say, 'Isn't it discouraging?' and I disagree totally," said Ebbin, D-Alexandria. "I know that any time that people are gonna tell lies about gays and lesbians on the House floor, that I can grab my mic and speak — and that's really empowering."

The 2005 session has given Ebbin plenty to speak out about.

The conservative-leaning House of Delegates passed measures that would make it difficult for same-sex couples to adopt chil-



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

dren and would authorize license plates celebrating "Traditional Marriage." The adoption bill was later rejected by a Senate committee and the license plate measure withdrawn by its sponsor.

And despite already having what some legal experts consider the most restrictive anti-gay law in the nation, the House and Senate passed a bill that would write a ban on gay marriage into the state Constitution.

"Today is one of those moments for which we shall one day be ashamed," Ebbin told his colleagues.

## Referee-attack crimes

**HI** HONOLULU — A state Senate committee will hold a hearing on a bill that would make it a felony crime to assault or threaten an athletic referee.

Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee chairwoman Colleen Hanabusa said she decided to hold a hearing after a player tried to tackle a referee at a high school basketball game in Kona.

Advocates say the measure would help in the recruitment and retention of hundreds of Hawaii athletic referees who have become targets of verbal and physical abuse.

But some lawmakers said athletic officials are already protected



## Tough little heart

Jerrick De Leon is looked over by Dr. V. Mahan Reddy at Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University in Stanford, Calif. The baby became the world's smallest infant to survive a certain type of open-heart surgery. Reddy switched the aorta and pulmonary arteries in Jerrick's heart, which is no larger than a grape.

along with regular citizens under current laws.

## Strip club art

**ID** BOISE — A city ordinance bans complete nudity at all gentlemen's clubs, but one has challenged that ordinance by distributing pencils and sketch pads to patrons during "art night."

The ordinance does give nudity exclusions for artistic displays which include dance, ballet and dramatic performances, so every Monday and Tuesday, the club encourages customers to sketch the models as they perform nude routines.

"As far as the Boise city code, it specifies it has to be a serious artistic manner and this is a serious artistic manner," said Chris Teague, Erotic City owner.

The club has put on art night for two months, and Teague said he has not received any complaints.

Boise Police officials say the club has not been cited for any ordinance violations.

## Going back to school

**WV** MARTINSBURG — Jefferson County Schools Superintendent Steven Nichols says a return to teaching in a kindergarten classroom similar to one he began his education career in 35 years ago was educational — for him.

Nichols said he was reminded how hard Jefferson County teachers work and how much they accomplish.

The students quickly warmed to their teacher, and asked for hugs about an hour into the school day. A group hug with the students before he left was "endearing" and "very heartwarming," he said.

Nichols served as a substitute teacher at Page Jackson Elementary School as part of his plan to have county administrators fill in as substitutes.

The county has had trouble finding enough substitutes, particularly on Friday mornings, Mondays and the day before a school holiday.

Nichols hasn't taught at the elementary level since 1977, but he said children haven't changed all that much.

"Kids at 5 years old are an absolute joy to behold," he said. "They are so excited about learning."

## Expanding link to past?

**MA** LOWELL — The city is exploring whether to revive part of its past by expanding trolley service beyond a 1.2-mile rail line used by tourists visiting Lowell National Historic Park.

A \$572,000 federally funded study is under way on a proposal to link that trolley line with the Galager Intermodal Terminal.

Options include extending the line to the city's sports attractions, such as Tsongas Arena and LeLachur Ballpark, or to dormitories at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. An extension also could allow residents of new downtown condominiums to use the trolley for shopping at a local super-market.

Depending on the study results, the Federal Transit Administration and National Park Service may split the entire cost.

The Lowell national park began running "historic replica" electric trolleys between several of its attractions in 1984.



## Peace and quiet

A visitor sits on top of a lifeguard stand in Carolina Beach, N.C.



## Summer is calling

Two unidentified women walk by bikini-clad mannequins on display at a clothing store in snowy Madison, Wis.



## Big temptation

The image of a curious cat is reflected in a backyard pond in Prairie Village, Kan., as he contemplates doing a little fishing.





## Torching old enemies

Re-enactors portraying Marines at the Battle of Iwo Jima fight the "enemy" at the site of the National Museum of the Pacific War's "A Public Tribute to the Heroes of Iwo Jima" event near Fredericksburg, Texas.



## How loose is your goose?

Lucy, the goose who thinks she's a cow, stands guard next to her bovine friends on Linda Williams' farm near Ashton, Ill. The goose lives with cows — sleeping and eating with them in their barnyard. "She protects them like they were her kids," a family friend said.



## A candle to remember

Rachel Gurt, 12, lights one of the spiral-layed candles, signifying the deaths of all U.S. servicemembers killed in the Iraq war, during a ceremony outside the Unitarian Church in Baton Rouge, La. Approximately 100 people, including the Veterans for Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against War and church members, attended the second annual event.

## Warnings via e-mail

**CT** BRIDGEPORT — The Connecticut Jewelers Association is working on an e-mail system that would notify store owners of suspicious customers, bad-check writers and other problems.

In Fairfield, where Timothy and Kimberly Donnelly were fatally shot in their jewelry store earlier this month, police have set up a meeting with local jewelers to discuss a real-time notification system of potential dangers.

## Theater shuts down

**NC** CHARLOTTE — The city's only full-time professional theater company lowered the curtain for the last time. The Charlotte Repertory Theatre closed after nearly 30 years.

It was hurt by a lack of money, patronage and artistic leadership.

Charlotte joins a handful of other metropolitan areas with populations over 1 million without a fully professional regional theater.

## Child abuse sentence

**PA** EASTON — A woman will serve 21 to 43 years in prison for giving away photographs of her husband sexually abusing girls as young as 5 years old.

Brenda Woodginski, 32, of Easton, pleaded guilty in November to 65 counts of sexual abuse of children. She was arrested after giving a box of the photographs to a woman at an Easton laundry.

The woman called police. The photos show Jimmy Woodginski sexually abusing children between 1992 and 1996, authorities said.

He is charged with rape and related offenses but remains in a psychiatric hospital because he was deemed incompetent to stand trial.

"The crimes committed here are the most heinous the court has seen," Northampton County Judge Leonard Zito said before imposing sentence.

Brenda Woodginski said she did nothing to stop her husband because "he threatened to kill me. I was so terrified. I just wish I would have left him long ago."

## Brewery doesn't sell

**MN** ST. PAUL — The future of the old Schmidt brewery is unresolved after a bankruptcy auction ended without a sale and only one bid of \$4 million. The bid was made by a city-backed developer who wanted to build housing and light retail space.

Dave Kreitzer, president of a bankrupt company that owns the 15-acre property, said the bid was too low.

## Equal representation

**SD** PIERRE — Gov. Mike Rounds says he's disappointed that his request to require that an American Indian be on the state parole board was removed from a bill in the Legislature.

The Senate Judiciary Committee removed the language from a bill to expand the board.

About one-fourth of the male inmates and a third of the state's female inmates are Indians. Rounds said he'd like lawmakers to restore the language when the bill is considered on the Senate floor.

## Sea urchin crop down

**CA** FORT BRAGG — The sea urchin, for many years Mendocino County's top ocean crop, has seen a steady decline. Sold primarily in Japanese sushi restaurants where they are known as uni, the area's urchins fetched just \$456,000 last year, down from a high of \$8.4 million in 1991.

## Lesbian to pay support

**IN** INDIANAPOLIS — A lesbian who split with her partner after adopting the woman's biological children must pay child support, the Indiana Court of Appeals has ruled.

The woman adopted her partner's children in 1997. A few years after their breakup, she tried to vacate the adoption. Around the same time, the children's biological mother, who had remarried and divorced a man, filed for child support.

A three-judge panel ruled that the woman who adopted the children must contribute to the cost of raising them.

"Whether a parent is a man or a woman, homosexual or heterosexual, or adoptive or biological, in assuming that role, a person also assumes certain responsibilities, obligations, and duties," Judge John G. Baker wrote in a 22-page ruling.

"That person must not simply choose to shed the parental mantle because it becomes inconvenient ... or becomes burdensome because of a deterioration in the relationship with the children's other parent," the decision said.

## The cost of immigrants

**ID** CALDWELL — Canyon County commissioner Robert Vasquez said he'll create an organization to focus on costs counties incur from undocumented immigrants. Vasquez said he's lost trust in the Legislature to address indigent health care and other costs for unlawful immigrants. Last year, Vasquez tried to bill the Mexican government \$2 million for reimbursement of jail and medical treatment costs he claimed the county paid for Mexican citizens.

## Feeding the inmates

**VT** SHELDON — John Champagne has a regular lunch order at The Abbey restaurant where he cooks, but they never show up and ask for a table. Champagne and other cooks at the Sheldon restaurant each day prepare lunch and dinner for inmates at the Franklin County Jail in St. Albans. There, men from around the globe are held on immigration violations.

"I usually give 'em a pretty good meal," Champagne said. "I usually give 'em what I would serve here for lunch. I don't skimp."

Champagne can tell a little about the men — up to 20 on any day — through their orders.

No peanuts or tomatoes in a meal request usually signals allergies. No pork, chicken or meat often means an inmate has religious restrictions on his diet. Champagne packs the meals in tins for the 12-mile trip to the jail.

"I might have one vegetarian for three or four days," Champagne said, "and then he's gone. Hopefully for the better."

Stories and photos from wire services

## FACES



"The Aviator"



"Ray"



AP photos



"Sideways"



"Million Dollar Baby"

# Best picture nominees not megahits

Academy executives worry about relation between film revenue and audience decline

BY DAVID GERMAIN  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — By the numbers, the Academy Awards are roughly 50 percent less relevant than they have been the last five years.

While all five candidates for the top Oscar have managed respectable ticket sales, they collectively have been seen by fewer moviegoers than any batch of best-picture nominees in 20 years.

For the first time since the 1997 "Titanic" juggernaut, no blockbuster is in the mix, and it's the first time in 15 years without at least one \$100 million hit among the best-picture contenders going into the Oscars.

By Sunday, a week before the Oscars, the domestic gross should total about \$315 million for "The Aviator," "Million Dollar Baby," "Ray," "Sideways" and "Finding Neverland."

A year ago, best-picture candidates had grossed \$696 million a week before the Oscars.

This year's five nominees have sold about 51 million tickets, down 50 percent or more from each of the previous five years, when admissions for the best-picture film ranged from 100 million to 118 million.

Audiences for the five top Oscar picks have not been this small since the 1984 awards, when "Amadeus" won best picture.

**"Finding Neverland," not shown, was also nominated for best picture**

This is not just an exercise in pointless arithmetic. Executives at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences know from experience that a hugely popular film leading the best-picture race helps attract viewers for the Oscar telecast, whose ratings have been in a funk over the last five years.

"We don't have a 'Titanic' or a 'Lord of the Rings' out there. I think it's fair to say it does concern us a bit," said Bruce Davis, the academy's executive director.

The Oscars drew their biggest audience ever when "Titanic" won the 1997 best-picture prize. Going into Oscar night, "Titanic" had grossed nearly a half-billion dollars on its way to a \$600 million domestic haul and \$1.8 billion worldwide payday.

A year ago, the largest audience in four years tuned in to see the academy crown \$377 million sensation "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" as best picture.

"Eyeballs staring at the movie screen translates to eyeballs staring at the TV screen," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

Edging toward \$90 million, "The Aviator" leads this year's roster, followed by "Ray," which topped out at about \$75 million and is now on home video. "Million Dol-

lar Baby," "Sideways" and "Finding Neverland" are in the \$45 million to \$55 million range.

The last three years, there has been a "Lord of the Rings" megahit competing. Other past blockbuster contenders included "Gladiator," "The Sixth Sense," "Saving Private Ryan," "Forrest Gump" and "Ghost."

"This is an unusual year in that there's not a blockbuster in the mix," said Steve Gilula, head of distribution for Fox Searchlight, which released "Sideways."

The big hits of 2004 included "Shrek 2," "Spider-Man 2" and "The Incredibles," but they were lighter flicks that never drew much best-picture buzz. And liberal-minded Hollywood did not give serious best-picture consideration to the religious blockbuster "The Passion of the Christ."

The Oscars, though, are not necessarily a place for popular sentiment, often singling out small films such as this year's "Vera Drake" or "Being Julia" for key nominations.

"I have never equated the Academy Awards with how much money a movie takes in," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal, which released "Ray." "That's the People's Choice Awards. This is not about the public. This is about the industry bestowing its awards on what they think are the best films of the year."

The studios behind the top nominees this time say the lineup is a victory for artistic merit.

"I think it's a tribute to members of the academy," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros., which released "Million Dollar Baby." "They vote with their hearts, not looking at the box office."

## Actress sees dead roles

Brenda Strong, who plays the deceased Mary Alice Young on ABC's "Desperate Housewives," has a long history of playing dead.

"I must have Haley Joel Osment as my agent, because he only sees dead parts," joked Strong from Radnor, Pa., referring to the actor whose character in "The Sixth Sense" is able to see the dead.

In "Desperate Housewives," Strong's character has shot herself to death but she still watches over the women of the upscale suburb and narrates their activities.

According to TV Guide's Feb. 20 issue, Strong has been



Strong

in several movies and nearly 100 TV appearances. They included roles playing a dominatrix killed by a machine gun and a character cut in half by the door of a spaceship.

## Aerosmith singer splits with wife

Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler and his wife of 17 years, Teresa, are separating, the singer announced Sunday from Los Angeles.

Tyler, 56, asked the public to respect his family's privacy in a statement released through the band's publicist, Mitch Schneider.

"Before the tabloid media makes more of this than it is, I am announcing that my wife Teresa and I are currently separated," Tyler said. The cou-



Tyler

ple have two teenage children, Chelsea, 16, and Taj, 13. Tyler is also the father of model Mia Tyler, 26, from a previous marriage, and the actress Liv Tyler, 27, from a previous relationship.

## Civil rights leader honored

The celebration of George Washington's birthday is also a day to honor the late civil rights leader Daisy Bates.

Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee signed legislation during Black History Month four years ago, making the third Monday in February a state holiday in her honor.

Bates served as adviser to nine black high school students — now known as the Little Rock Nine — who broke the color barrier at Little Rock's Central High in 1957.

Her home, where the students often met with her to strengthen their resolve, is designated a National Historic Landmark.

Stories and Photos From The Associated Press

## YOUR MONEY

Fine sales  
up thanks  
to 'Sideways'BY MICHELLE LOCKE  
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — "Sideways," the movie about two guys, a road trip and a whole lot of wine, may be sending pinot noir sales up.

Pinot noir, the relatively obscure red wine beloved by the movie's snobby but sweet character Miles, has been experiencing a gentle upswing in popularity for some years. But the numbers jumped sharply after "Sideways" opened last fall, according to supermarket, drug and liquor store sales data from ACNielsen.

Pinot noir sales reached 370,000 cases for the 12 weeks ending Jan. 15, up nearly 16 percent from the same period a year ago, according to an ACNielsen analysis released Monday.

Interestingly, domestic pinot noir was driving growth whereas a year ago both foreign and domestic pinot noir sales were growing.

In California, the sales spike was higher, 33 percent.

Danny Brager, vice president of ACNielsen Beverage Alcohol Team, said in a news release that it's difficult to quantify the movie's exact impact but "it looks like more than a coincidence that this variety's sales have been stronger than ever since the movie's release."

Vintners and wine store owners say they've definitely noticed the "Sideways" effect.

At the Wild Horse winery on California's Central Coast, the region where the movie is set, supermarket sales of pinot noir jumped 135 percent, to 480 cases, for the four weeks ending Jan. 15.

"You just don't get these kind of jumps," said George Christie, brand manager. "The Central Coast has been producing some incredible wines for quite some time. I think it's fabulous that a movie like this comes along and now people are trying the wines out."



Gary Marceletti, proprietor of The San Francisco Wine Trading Co., on Friday holds up two bottles of Harley Oetli 2002 Hitting Post Santa Barbara County Pinot Noir, which was featured in the movie "Sideways," at his store in San Francisco.

In the movie, Miles, played by Paul Giamatti, rhapsodizes about pinot noir, a challenging grape to work with since it only grows in certain regions and demands a lot of attention on and off the vine.

The character disdains merlot, a consumer favorite that continues to sell well, according to the ACNielsen data. Merlot was up 3 percent to more than 3.2 million cases sold for the 12 weeks ending Jan. 15 and was the leading red varietal.

At the San Francisco Wine Trading Company, Gary Marceletti said it's not hard to spot a "Sideways" customer. "They come in, they talk about the movie and then they say, what's going on with the pinot noir?"

Smart phones make  
life easier in Japan  
Chip turns cell phone into  
debit cards for train fareBY YURI KAGEYAMA  
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Some 10 million Japanese commuters use smart cards embedded with a computer chip to pay for train tickets and chip by station gates with just a tap of their plastic on special reading devices.

With a service planned for launch in January next year, they'll be able to use their mobile phones in place of the cards to pay for their train fares, a Japanese train company, a top mobile operator and Sony Corp. said Tuesday.

The Suica electronic train-fare system uses Sony's IC chip technology called Felica, which is also used in other kinds of electronic cash cards.

The cards are embedded with a tiny computer chip that permits instantaneous payments without the hassle of coins.

Some DoCoMo phones already have an IC chip in them and can be used for purchases at stores that have electronic panels that can read the cards. More than 2

million Felica handsets have been sold in Japan.

But so far, the phones haven't been compatible with Suica, the widespread smart-card system for trains, a service run by East Japan Railway Co. that began about three years ago.

The companies will test out the new service in March through their joint venture Felica Networks Inc. and hope to attract a million people next year, they said.

Bringing together Suica and cell phones may boost already massive IC chip usage here because Japanese are among the most avid users of cell phones in the world, including various Net-linking features such as restaurant guides, news, e-mail and karaoke.

Users will also be able to use their joint venture-compatible phones to pay at some restaurants, convenience stores and shops.

The service will later be expanded to include online shopping and reserved ticket purchases, the companies said.

## EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates   |            |
|--|------------|
| Euro costs   | \$1,355.1  |
| Dollar buys  | 67.739     |
| British pound  | \$1,599.1  |
| Japanese yen (Feb. 22)   | 103.00     |
| South Korean won (Feb. 19)   | 999.00     |
| Commercial rates   |            |
| Bahrain (Dinar)  | 0.3767     |
| British pound  | \$1,599.1  |
| Canada (Dollar)  | 1.2316     |
| Denmark (Krone)  | 5.32       |
| Egypt (Pound)  | 5.6116     |
| Euro   | \$1,340.76 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar)   | 7.7996     |
| India (Rupee)  | 48.33      |
| Iceland (Krona)  | 60.33      |
| Israel (Shekel)  | 4.853      |
| Japan (Yen)  | 109.64     |
| South Korea (Won)  | 999.00     |
| Norway (Krone)   | 5.92       |
| Sweden (Krona)   | 4.66       |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal)   | 1.358      |
| Singapore (Dollar)   | 1.366      |
| South Korea (Won)  | 999.00     |
| Switzerland (Franc)  | 1.19       |
| Taiwan (Dollar)  | 35.4       |
| Turkey (New Lira)  | 1.2929     |
| Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-military exchange rates, see the purchasing British pound (GBP) or check with your local military bank. Commercial rates are for foreign currencies to the dollar, except for the British pound, which is reported in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro (\$). |            |

## PRECIOUS METALS

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| London close |          |
| Gold         | \$434.60 |
| Silver       | \$7.51   |

## INTEREST RATES

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Prime rate                                     | 5.50 |
| Discount rate                                  | 5.00 |
| Federal funds market rate                      | 2.50 |
| 3-month bill                                   | 4.00 |
| 30-year bond                                   | 4.65 |
| Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America. |      |

Spell-check can be  
added to Outlook

Q. I do not have the spell feature on my Outlook Express.

Please help. — Jim Spinale@charter.net

A. Do you know that there is no spell-check software built into Outlook Express and that it gets its spell-check feature by borrowing that of a word processor like Microsoft Works or Microsoft Office? There are inexpensive programs available that can add spell-checking to machines lacking the feature. Check out [www.spellchecker.com/personal](http://www.spellchecker.com/personal) or [www.downloads.com](http://www.downloads.com).

A number of users have had a problem with one of the Outlook Express files that is used to do the checks. It is called casp31.dll and if you have Works or an equivalent program then you need to replace it.

Fire up Internet Explorer and type in this as the address: C:\Program Files\Microsoft Shared\MSO\Microsoft Shared\Proof. This takes you to your PC's Proofing dictionary, which is used for spell

checks, grammar checks and other supervisory jobs. If the casp31.dll file is there, delete it. Then you need to make a fresh copy of the file using the Expand tool.

Click on Start and Run and then type misgfn and click OK.

In the next display, click on Expand File. In the box that comes up you are asked for the name of the file to restore so type in casp31.dll and then in the Restore From box, type in C:\Windows\i386, which is where these files are kept. In some cases the master

file is on the supplied Windows CD; if so, type in the drive letter for the CD drive and i386. Point the Expand tool to the Proof folder mentioned above and click the Expand button.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at [jcoates@tribune.com](mailto:jcoates@tribune.com) or via snail mail at the Chicago Tribune, Room 400, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. Questions can be answered only through this column. Add your point of view at [www.chicagotribune.com/askjim](http://www.chicagotribune.com/askjim).

## Ask Jim



Jim Coates

Cents and Sensibility  
Money tip of the day

## Job interview questions

Questions asked in job interviews aren't very funny, especially the one now being asked that requires you to answer, "What makes you laugh?"

In fact, the plethora of new queries that seem so off the wall creates a certain nostalgia among job seekers for that long-time favorite, "Tell me about yourself."

Although many job seekers consider the "telling" question daunting, Allen Becker of Roswell, Ga., insists that "anyone who does not know how to answer it hasn't done their homework. This question has been a staple in the arsenal of interviewers with more than 10 years."

Becker, who formerly worked in production for a manufacturing company where he did some hiring, says it's a relatively easy question to answer: "Start by identifying a signif-

icant event in your life, such as your graduation from college, military service or relocating to a new city," said Becker, a former director of Career Transition Masters in Marietta, Ga., a group of volunteers who support job seekers.

"Next, name a company you worked for and your accomplishments there. Add why you were able to be effective — your strengths and special skills. End by saying you hope to bring your abilities to the company to help it achieve its goals and objectives."

And Becker, who has attended many seminars, workshops and lectures on careers, adds this important caveat: "You must do all this in two minutes or less."

Somehow, Becker manages to demystify that often-paralyzing question, "Tell me about yourself." But I still maintain that "what makes you laugh?" could be much more fun to answer.





# EUROPEAN FORECAST

**Berlin:** Mostly cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the low 30s, lows in the lower 20s.

**Britain:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 30s to lower 40s, lows in the lower 20s to mid-30s.

**Croatia and Bosnia:** Cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 40s, lows in the low 30s.

**France:** Mostly cloudy with isolated snowshowers in the Northeast. Highs in the upper 30s to upper 40s, lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

**Northern Germany:** Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the upper 20s to mid 30s, lows in the upper teens to upper 20s.

**Southern Germany:** Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the upper 20s, lows in the lower teens to low 20s.

**Hungary:** Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the mid-30s, lows in the low 20s.

**Northern Italy:** Cloudy with isolated snowshowers. Highs in the low to upper 30s, lows in the upper 20s.

**Southern Italy:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the lower to upper 50s, lows in the low to upper 30s.

**Kosovo:** Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the low to mid-40s, lows in the low 30s.

**Norway:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the 20s, lows in the lower teens to low 20s.

**Portugal, Spain:** Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the low to upper 50s, lows in the lower 30s to upper 40s.

**Turkey:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the North in the lower to mid-50s, and upper 60s in the south, lows in the lower to mid 40s.



# AFRICA

|           | HI | LO |           | HI | LO |
|-----------|----|----|-----------|----|----|
| Cape Town | 80 | 62 | Mogadishu | 88 | 75 |
| Dakar     | 80 | 62 | Nairobi   | 85 | 58 |
| Freetown  | 87 | 77 | Rabat     | 63 | 41 |
| Amman     | 91 | 74 | Tripoli   | 66 | 44 |

# THE WORLD

|              | HI | LO |                | HI | LO |
|--------------|----|----|----------------|----|----|
| Amsterdam    | 37 | 29 | Manila         | 89 | 72 |
| Bahrain      | 70 | 57 | Mexico City    | 74 | 47 |
| Beijing      | 29 | 14 | Montreal       | 30 | 12 |
| Bombay       | 87 | 64 | Riyadh         | 80 | 59 |
| Buenos Aires | 69 | 58 | Rio de Janeiro | 84 | 73 |
| Calcutta     | 87 | 74 | Sofia          | 30 | 21 |
| Harbin       | 18 | 12 | Sydney         | 80 | 68 |
| Hong Kong    | 69 | 65 | Tokyo          | 53 | 37 |
| London       | 57 | 47 |                |    |    |

# MIDEAST



For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at <https://www.ombach.at.mil> or <https://www.ombach.at.mil>

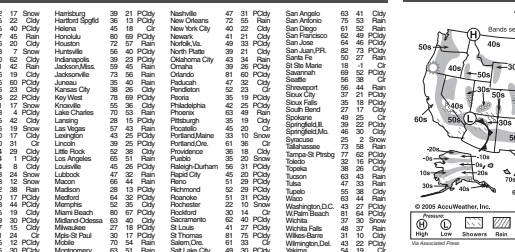
# SUN & MOON

|                     | Today  | Tomorrow |
|---------------------|--------|----------|
| Sunrise (Baghdad)   | 6:58AM | 6:57AM   |
| Sunrise (Frankfurt) | 7:21AM | 7:19AM   |
| Sunset (Baghdad)    | 5:55PM | 5:56PM   |
| Sunset (Frankfurt)  | 5:58PM | 6:00PM   |

# TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

|                  | HI | LO |                  | HI | LO |
|------------------|----|----|------------------|----|----|
| Albany, N.Y.     | 58 | 39 | Cleveland        | 30 | 22 |
| Albuquerque      | 54 | 34 | Columbus, Ga.    | 67 | 40 |
| Anchorage        | 35 | 9  | Columbus, Miss.  | 67 | 40 |
| Annapolis        | 43 | 30 | Concord, N.H.    | 33 | 21 |
| Atlanta          | 61 | 43 | Copius, N.Y.     | 61 | 42 |
| Austin           | 73 | 58 | Dallas-Ft. Worth | 61 | 42 |
| Baltimore        | 42 | 34 | Dayton           | 57 | 38 |
| Baton Rouge      | 68 | 49 | Daytona Beach    | 75 | 60 |
| Birmingham       | 44 | 34 | Denver           | 73 | 60 |
| Boston           | 38 | 24 | Des Moines       | 38 | 22 |
| Boulder          | 61 | 43 | Detroit          | 38 | 22 |
| Buffalo          | 38 | 24 | Dubuque          | 38 | 22 |
| Butte            | 38 | 24 | El Paso          | 60 | 31 |
| Cambridge        | 38 | 24 | Fort Collins     | 38 | 22 |
| Camden           | 38 | 24 | Fort Wayne       | 38 | 22 |
| Cambridge, Mass. | 38 | 24 | Grand Rapids     | 38 | 22 |
| Charlottesville  | 61 | 43 | Greenville       | 38 | 22 |
| Chattanooga      | 58 | 40 | Greenville, S.C. | 38 | 22 |
| Chicago          | 38 | 24 | Greenville, N.C. | 38 | 22 |
| Chromwell        | 38 | 24 |                  |    |    |

# THE UNITED STATES TODAY



Scheduled to

ETS

or

PCS?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS & STRIPES

Your Hometown Newspaper



# Horoscope

It's one of the timest full moons we've had in seasons. All of the werewolves are inside doing their taxes — ferociously, of course. Use the lunar energy to be wildly productive on your own daunting project — impressive productivity occurs now that all information is known, all resources are available, and all synapses in the brain are firing.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(February 25).** This is your year to be pro-active! Don't wait until life pushes you to make a change. It's time to throw instead of just survive. Steps toward a goal in the next seven weeks lead to meetings with people who will be a supportive resource in years to come. A fabulous business move is featured in April. Love signs are Leo and Scorpio.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You see an example of greatness and take note of the substantial difference between mediocrity and excellence. On the personal side, there are rumors going around, and you want to clear things up — get it from the source.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

A work situation plays out like a slow-paced poker game, and you're enjoying every nuance. Be careful not to give too much away with your "tell." If you're not completely in control, someone will call your bluff.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

A scatter-shot approach to scheduling knocks down a few obstacles, but in order to make real progress, you'll have to get focused! Take an hour or two to write in your journal and plan things out. It's actually time efficient.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Too many possessions could be a problem, distracting you from what you really care about and sucking energy better spent on nurturing yourself or others. Sell it on eBay or the local free-area weekend.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

Flirty fun continues. Making someone

work harder to get to know you actually works in your favor. A seemingly minor decision has a major impact — be thoughtful. Curb the anger impulse — what you're after money can't buy.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Though you are an inspired shopper now, too much emphasis on materialism is a danger. Put people first, and you'll get the best deal. Be careful not to give the wrong impression to someone who doesn't know you well.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Friendly competitions and discussions have a way of escalating into something passionate. Take nothing for granted in understanding those you love — let them express it their way. A Pisces has a lucky tip.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Just because something happened once doesn't mean it will happen again. Besides, breaking out of old patterns is your specialty! You'll do well with tests and competitions that involve many people.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Attitude is everything. With a little introspection and a few tweaks, your attitude will be perfect for the job you need to do. You're being evaluated even when you think you're alone.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

The space probe Cassini has been orbiting the rings of your ruling planet, Saturn, gathering data about this mysterious, magnificent luminary. Someone is orbiting you much in the same way. How flattering!

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Someone thrives under your tutelage. And by teaching others, you train yourself to be a true master. Return what you borrowed, or there may be a penalty. Family time is magical tonight.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You're in a growth sprint in regard to work: Attend conferences or anything related to learning more about your industry. Friends need you tonight, but giving a little should sign you up for a lot.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



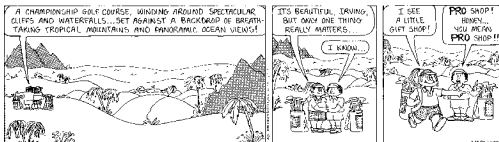
## Jump Start



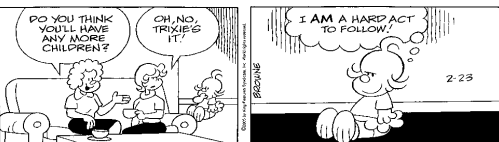
## Zits



## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red and Rover



## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



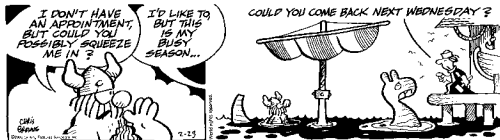
Blondie



Dilbert



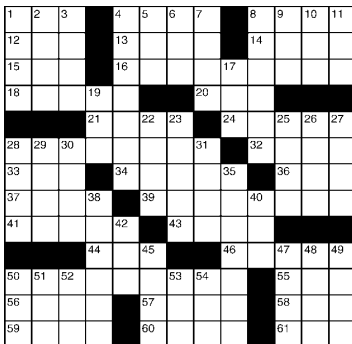
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Run off at the mouth
- 4 Simoleons
- 8 Entreaty
- 12 Wish otherwise
- 13 Sheltered
- 14 Be in charge of
- 15 Anger
- 16 Captain's right
- 18 Correspond
- 20 Chignon
- 21 Nuisance
- 24 Little devil
- 28 Lucas classic
- 32 Withered
- 33 Lubricant
- 34 Berate
- 36 Just out
- 37 Play a trumpet
- 39 Carmichael tune
- 41 Fulton's power
- 43 Took off
- 44 Frito —
- 46 Condition
- 50 Cohort of Barbara Walters
- 55 Through
- 56 Lama territory
- 57 Symbol of servitude
- 58 Switch positions
- 59 Sweet potatoes
- 60 Finished
- 61 Method

## Down

- 1 Bleak
- 2 Atmosphere
- 3 Borscht base
- 4 Oft-roasted nuts
- 5 Ht.
- 6 Vast expanse
- 7 Flavor enhancer
- 8 Teleshop supply
- 9 Attraction
- 10 Thompson
- 11 Corn spike
- 12 Do arithmetic
- 17 Al Bundy's sona
- 19 Lifesaving technique, for short
- 22 Pouches
- 23 Jags
- 25 Carte
- 26 Raw rocks
- 27 Salamander
- 28 Bawls
- 29 Pinball no-no
- 30 Lotion additive
- 31 Rebuff a masher
- 35 Bureau
- 38 Arctic beast
- 40 Banned insecticide
- 42 Army rank (Abbr.)
- 45 Vacillate
- 47 Acknowledge
- 48 Fey of "SNL"
- 49 Relaxed
- 50 Mole, maybe
- 51 Afternoon affair
- 52 Upper limb
- 53 Thanksgiving abbr.
- 54 — out a living

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-23

## CRYPTOQUIP

FZ TE FITOFTE SJPZ DYI  
 APBN QTK, F MBPVQP  
 JP SYWOK DFAP NYW T

MFRRT JFV QFEK!  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ASSUMING A GIRL MISPLACED HER SHOPPING BAG, IT COULD BE SEEN AS A TOTE-ALL LOSS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals Z







# Over/under on achievement at NBA break

BY CHARLES F. GARDNER  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

While some players spent the weekend basking on the beaches, and others were in Denver for Sunday's NBA All-Star Game, it seems an appropriate time to size up the biggest winners and losers thus far this season.

Or to put it another way, the top five disappointments and the top five surprises. We're talking about teams here, some are sinking and others are soaring. So let's hand out the awards.

## Five disappointments

**1. Minnesota Timberwolves:** They easily win this category, despite claiming victories in their last two games before the break to even their record at 27-27. A team that reached the Western Conference finals last season, the T-wolves would not qualify for the playoffs if the season ended today.

Rip Saunders, thought to be one of the best coaches in the league, was fired last weekend when he could not shake the team out of its lethargic way. He was replaced on the bench by vice president of basketball operations Kevin McHale, who lost to Chicago in his debut but posted victories over New Jersey and Cleveland.

The seemingly rejuvenated Timberwolves held on to beat the Cavaliers on Thursday night at the Target Center, sparked by inspired efforts from reigning league MVP Kevin Garnett and Wally Szczerbiak.

Saunders might not have seen his firing coming, but he did see trouble right away in training camp when veterans Latrell Sprewell and Sam Cassell came in talking about contract issues. "We didn't have the same agenda when we started the season," Saunders said. "We had individual agendas when we started the season. And last year our main agenda, more than anything else, was team success. It's very difficult, when you start one way, to change in midstream."

**2. Denver Nuggets:** This was a case of great expectations, maybe too great.

The Nuggets acquired power forward Kenyon Martin in an off-season deal with New Jersey, and it was assumed they would cruise into the Western Conference playoffs. But guard Voshon Lenard suffered a serious injury, and maybe the Nuggets had too many big men, strange as it sounds.

Former Milwaukee Bucks

## Analysis

coach George Karl, who long had coveted the Denver job, got his chance when he was hired to replace interim coach Michael Cooper in late January. Karl started out with a tasty victory at the Bradley Center ("On nights like this, the beer tastes like champagne"), and led the Nuggets to a 7-4 record entering the All-Star festivities in the Rockies.

But Denver has a tough road ahead, sitting at 24-29 and five games behind the Los Angeles Lakers (26-24) in the loss column, in the battle for the final conference playoff spot.

**3. Indiana Pacers:** Everything was going along as expected for the Pacers until that fateful November night in Detroit.

That's when Indiana won a game but lost its collective cool and lost power forward Jermaine O'Neal and shooting guard Stephen Jackson for an extended period due to suspensions. Defensive specialist Ron Artest was banned for the rest of the season for jumping into the stands and throwing punches at Pistons fans.

Indiana figured it would contend with Detroit and Cleveland for the Central Division title. Instead the Pacers are 25-26 and battling just to gain an Eastern Conference playoff spot.

**4. New York Knicks:** Isaiah Thomas was hired as president of basketball operations in December 2003, and his mission was to restore greatness to the proud Knicks franchise.

Instead the Knicks remain mired in mediocrity, or even worse. They have the self-proclaimed top point guard in the league in Stephon Marbury, but at 21-32 aren't likely to make the playoffs this season.

Tim Thomas is still inconsistent as the starting small forward, and Jamal Crawford is erratic at the second guard spot.

Isiah Thomas will have a big decision to make in the offseason when he names a full-time coach to replace Herb Williams, who has the interim job right now.

**5. Los Angeles Lakers:** Also showing up on the disappointing list are the Lakers, who barely resemble the team that reached the NBA Finals last season.

Nobody knew quite what to expect when Shaquille O'Neal left



Point guard Gilbert Arenas, right, is averaging 24.8 points a game for the Washington Wizards, who were 30-22 going into the break.

the Staples Center and handed the ball over to his rival, Kobe Bryant, but it hasn't been pretty.

Rudy Tomjanovich cut short his return to coaching Kobe struggled to mesh with his new teammates. Interim coach Frank Hamblen tried to make sense of it all, while some in L.A. called for Phil Jackson to return.

If the Timberwolves or Nuggets get it together over the final 30 or so games, the Lakers might be in the draft lottery.

## Five surprises

**1. Phoenix Suns:** Really, who saw this coming? Steve Nash arrives in the Valley of the Sun and suddenly Phoenix is among the league's elite? Come on, now.

But it has happened just that way, as the whirling Nash has ignited the fast break and fueled the potent Suns offense, which averages a league-leading 110.2 points per game. Defensive issues could slow the Suns' express, if they're not careful.

Nash, Amare Stoudemire and Shawn Marion gave Phoenix three All-Stars for the first time since 1981.

**2. Seattle SuperSonics:** The Sonics were 25-27 at the All-Star break last season. This year they are 35-15 and lead second-place Minnesota by 10 games in the

Northwest Division. Seattle has utilized the three-point shot effectively, paced by guard Ray Allen and Rashard Lewis, both selected for the All-Star Game. But the role players, including forward Nick Collison and guard Antonio Daniels, have played their parts to perfection.

**3. Washington Wizards:** Gilbert Arenas has embraced the switch to point guard, and the acquisition of Antawn Jamison

gives the Wizards a scoring power forward.

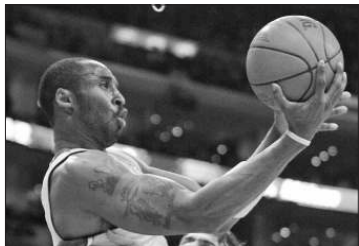
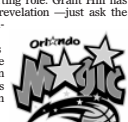
Suddenly, basketball is fun again in the nation's capital and the fans are packing the stands on weekend nights at the MCI Center. The Wizards are 30-22 at the break despite losing their last three, and they currently are the fifth-seeded team in the Eastern Conference.

**4. Chicago Bulls:** Astute draft-day work (Luol Deng, Ben Gordon, Chris Duhon) and the development of young big men Eddy Curry and Tyson Chandler have made the Bulls an undeniable force to consider in the East. John Paxson deserves kudos as general manager after enduring a miserable year in 2003-04, and his choice of Scott Skiles as coach is paying dividends.

The Bulls were 14-38 at the break last season; 26-23 this time around.

**5. Orlando Magic:** Rookie Dwight Howard has contributed in a starting role. Grant Hill has been a revelation — just ask the Los Angeles Clippers after he tossed in 39 points on them last week.

And Steve Franchise (Francis), acquired in the mega-trade that sent Tracy McGrady to Houston, has helped revive a team that was dispirited and plain awful a year ago. Orlando was 13-41 at the break a year ago. The Magic is 28-24 this season, including 19-6 at home.



With Shaquille O'Neal now in Miami, Kobe Bryant, above, is the undisputed leader of the Los Angeles Lakers. But where will he lead them?

# Speculation surrounds NBA trade deadline

## From Timberwolves to Webber, teams look for quick shake-ups

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN  
The Associated Press

DENVER — In the hours before the All-Star Game, Kevin Garnett wondered how the Minnesota Timberwolves might regain the lofty status they recently lost.

If it takes a trade of Wally Szczerbiak, Sam Cassell or Latrell Sprewell before Thursday's 3 p.m. EST deadline, it'll probably come as a surprise to the league's reigning MVP.

Or so he says.

"As of lately, I haven't been in the loop on anything, so I don't know what we're doing, what kind of transactions we're making," Garnett said Sunday. "As far as the loop, I don't know where it's at."

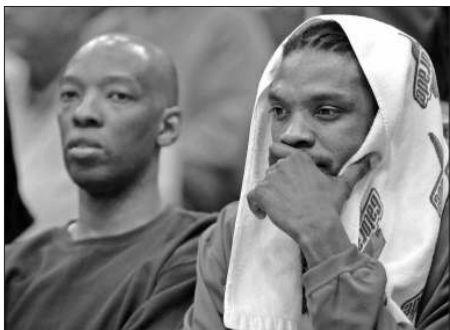
The All-Star break ended Monday, and the league's 24 best players headed this way and that from a city that pulled off the league's showcase weekend without a hitch and now will focus its attention on the troubles of the struggling Nuggets.

Denver made the playoffs last season after an eight-year absence, but the Nuggets' current record (24-29) has left them with the 10th-best record. Only eight teams qualify for the postseason.

By comparison, though, the Timberwolves' situation is worse.

After reaching the Western Conference finals last season with the NBA's second-best record (58-24), Minnesota ended the unofficial second half of the season as a 500 team with serious chemistry issues that many believe can only be resolved with a roster shake-up.

"Chemistry is something that's hard. I love all the guys on my team, they're all good guys, guys that really care about one



Minnesota Timberwolves forward Latrell Sprewell, right, and guard Sam Cassell are at the top of the trade list after grabbing headlines in the offseason for griping about their contracts. Neither has played at the level they did during last year's record winning season.

another, guys that have real, real, real work ethics," Garnett said. "And as a unit, we know we can come together and turn this thing around, so whether they're going to make moves or not, it's not going to be dependent on what Kevin Garnett thinks."

Along with the Timberwolves, the Sacramento Kings, Toronto Raptors, Indiana Pacers, Memphis Grizzlies, Portland Trail Blazers, Boston Celtics, New York Knicks and Los Angeles Lakers are the favorites to do something happen before Thursday afternoon.

Sacramento's Chris Webber, New York's Kurt Thomas, Toronto's Jalen Rose and

Donyell Marshall, Indiana's suspended Ron Artest, Memphis' Bonzi Wells, Portland's Damon Stoudamire, Nick Van Exel and Ruben Patterson, Miami's Eddie Jones and the Lakers' Lamar Odom were among the names being bandied about in trade rumors over the weekend.

"I think every year there's so much speculation, but we always say nobody wants to pull that trigger," Seattle's Ray Allen said. "It might be that some 10th to 12th players are moved around, some draft picks. But nothing really significant ever happens."

Allen seemed to be forgetting a big piece of his own recent past, the deadline-day

deal between the SuperSonics and Milwaukee two years ago.

Allen was caught completely off-guard when the Bucks shipped him to Seattle for Gary Payton and Desmond Mason, and chances are someone will be in a similar situation before the opportunity to make deals expires.

Many believe this is a different season than the NBA has experienced for the past decade, the race for the championship more wide open than 99 percent of the league's player population has ever seen.

"Everybody says San Antonio is the team to beat, and definitely they've earned that and have the right to say that," Phoenix's Shawn Marion said. "We have to prove we can beat them and play with them."

Phoenix (41-15) comes out of the break just a half-game behind San Antonio (41-12) for the league's best record.

Miami (40-14), Seattle (35-15), Dallas (35-16), the defending champion Pistons (32-19) and Sacramento (33-20) are right on their heels, and Cleveland (30-21), Washington (30-22) and Houston (32-21) are the league's upstarts.

One sportswriter who had a five-hour layover in Las Vegas on his way to Denver noticed that the Rockets were listed as 30-1 to win the title.

That fact was relayed Sunday to Tracy McGrady, who was immediately taken aback given his team's eight-game winning streak.

"Whoa. Really? I think we've shown over the past month that we're a team not to be taken lightly," McGrady said. "Maybe the truth our time is not now since it's our first year together, myself and Yao (Ming), but I don't feel that way. We did get off to a bad start and hurt ourselves a bit, but if they watched over the past month they'd realize we're one of the elite teams in this league now."

The problem, as Garnett can attest, is that elite team status is fleeting in today's NBA.

Time is running out for teams to do something about it before the trading deadline.

## It's not out with the old stars, in with new just yet

CHANGING OF THE GUARD? Not yet.

It will come, the great new Age of LeBron, but for now, the list still forms behind Andre Iversen and behind Kobe Bryant for that matter. And certainly, as long as he cares, Shaquille O'Neal will block the sun from them all.

Denver did its duty, to put a roof over the 54th All-Star Game, to clear its streets for loud strangers in loud clothes and to not gawk at the stretch limos. Tim Duncan, for one, said we have a very nice city, but then, he is used to San Antonio.

But this All-Star Game will not linger in memory as the last one, when the slam-dunk contest was invented, when the majesty of Julius Erving was eclipsed by a tall stranger from Arizona.

This one was the usual suspects being usual, and somebody had to win because nobody could leave without somebody did.

This one had a chance to be special. This could have been the one that confirmed the arrival of LeBron James at that place his world seems anxious to proclaim. This game could have been a statement made by tomorrow, and instead it was today that ruled, and

### Bernie Lincolne



were new with Jordan and Dominique and Barkley and Karl Malone.

"The future of the game is in good hands."

The NBA seems always in a rush to get to the next big thing. And back when James and Carmelo Anthony were a couple, it bought dinner for the both of them. Now James is on his own, or more often paired with Dwyane Wade of Miami, but at least in Melo's house Sunday night, they behaved themselves.

Considerately, Iversen let James have another year of youth, doing what Iversen does, playing harder than anyone, caring more than anyone, being tougher than anyone.

"He's like a little version of

me," O'Neal said.

They were, still are in their fashion, unfulfilled promises, that significant collection of players who rushed through fake snow from a fake mountain mine onto the Pepsi Center floor to play a fake basketball game.

The youngest of them, James, is now what Hill was pledged to be, and Iversen, too. Tracy McGrady, the pre-scandal Kobe, semi-boiled upon introduction, have had their chance to reign.

With strictly a sideshow endorsement, even Yao Ming had most of basketball's light for a moment, and, astonishingly, most of the votes for this game.

One of them would save the NBA, from what is unclear, except that the NBA always seems to need saving. When it actually did need to be saved, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird did just that, and then Michael Jordan established forever the principle of celebrity and supporting cast.

Iversen, the celebrity of the night, offered some advice for James, the celebrity of tomorrow: "I let him know that LeBron James is right now on top of the world. But don't ever forget that these same people that put you on top of the world can put you under it.

"As long as he realizes that people with notepads and putting cameras in his face are not his friends, that they are just doing their job, he'll be all right."

And if he wins six titles in a row, too.

So the search for the man can continue in basketball, the man being the uncontested, ... well, man, star of stars, the one. Not a clear choice since Jordan wore out himself and us.

In all the important ways, save free-throw shooting, the man has been O'Neal, now a moshball if newly fit and newly motivated. Trying to give this game some sort of significance, the argument emerges that since the West always seemed to win when O'Neal was in the West, and the East won now that he is in the East, the balance of power has shifted.

"Take Shaquille from the West and put him in the East, and nine times out of 10, the East is stronger," said Iversen.

"Sit around a bar and talk about it," East coach Stan Van Gundy said. "It does not matter."

There will be room in the bars now. Thanks for coming. Thanks for going.

Contact Bernie Lincolne at: lincolne@RockyMountainNews.com

### NBA scoreboard

#### Eastern Conference

| Atlantic Division  |    | W  | L   | Pct    | GB |
|--------------------|----|----|-----|--------|----|
| Boston             | 27 | 26 | 509 | —      |    |
| Philadelphia       | 27 | 27 | 491 | 1      |    |
| New Jersey         | 20 | 30 | 434 | 4      |    |
| New York           | 21 | 36 | 6   |        |    |
| Toronto            | 21 | 32 | 36  | 6      |    |
| Southeast Division |    | W  | L   | Pct    | GB |
| Miami              | 40 | 14 | 741 | —      |    |
| Orlando            | 28 | 23 | 9   |        |    |
| Charlotte          | 28 | 24 | 538 | 11     |    |
| Atlanta            | 19 | 35 | 220 | 27     |    |
| Washington         | 19 | 36 | 189 | 28     |    |
| Central Division   |    | W  | L   | Pct    | GB |
| Detroit            | 19 | 36 | 77  | —      |    |
| Cleveland          | 30 | 21 | 582 | 2      |    |
| Chicago            | 23 | 27 | 581 | 3      |    |
| Indiana            | 25 | 49 | 400 | 17     |    |
| Milwaukee          | 20 | 30 | 400 | 17 1/2 |    |

#### Western Conference

| Southwest Division |    | W  | L   | Pct    | GB |
|--------------------|----|----|-----|--------|----|
| San Antonio        | 41 | 12 | 774 | —      |    |
| Denver             | 29 | 24 | 463 | 13 1/2 |    |
| Houston            | 32 | 21 | 604 | 5      |    |
| Phoenix            | 21 | 31 | 186 | 19     |    |
| Northwest Division |    | W  | L   | Pct    | GB |
| Seattle            | 27 | 27 | 500 | 10     |    |
| Minnesota          | 29 | 24 | 463 | 13 1/2 |    |
| Portland           | 27 | 27 | 412 | 14 1/2 |    |
| Vancouver          | 12 | 41 | 186 | 27 1/2 |    |
| Pacific Division   |    | W  | L   | Pct    | GB |
| Phoenix            | 33 | 13 | 759 | —      |    |
| Sacramento         | 33 | 20 | 623 | 7 1/2  |    |
| L.A. Lakers        | 26 | 24 | 520 | 11     |    |
| San Diego          | 23 | 27 | 434 | 17 1/2 |    |
| Golden State       | 15 | 38 | 283 | 29 1/2 |    |

#### Sunday's games

East All-Star 125, West All-Star 115

No games scheduled

#### Tuesday's games

Indiana at Orlando  
Milwaukee at Charlotte  
New York at Detroit  
Toronto at New Jersey  
Miami at Chicago  
Seattle at Houston  
Atlanta at Sacramento  
Boston at L.A. Lakers

# Source: Coles wants out of Washington

The Associated Press

First Rod Gardner, now Laveranues Coles. The Washington Redskins could lose both their top receivers after an unsatisfying season in coach Joe Gibbs' offense.

Coles has met with Gibbs twice to state his desire to leave the Redskins, including a forthright conversation the day after the season ended, an official within the league told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday. The Redskins, in turn, have told Coles they want him to have surgery on the chronic toe injury that has plagued him the last two seasons, a procedure that Coles has been reluctant to undergo, the source said.

Gibbs called reporters to Redskins Park on Monday to address the Coles situation, but the coach offered few details.

"I've had talks with him," Gibbs said. "Everything that we've discussed is going to be between me and him."

Coles' meetings with Gibbs were first reported by The Washington Post, but Gibbs said the Post's report that the meetings were likely to lead to Coles' release was "inaccurate."

"Hopefully something will work out for him and good for us," Gibbs said.

Last month, the Redskins granted Gardner's request to seek a trade. Coles and Gardner accounted for a combined 141 catches and 1,600 yards for the Redskins last season, but both were disenchanted with a conservative offense that produced few big plays



downfield and ranked 30th overall.

Coles had 90 catches for 950 yards for a career-low 10.6 yards a catch and only one touchdown in the Redskins' 6-10 season. The year before, under past-oriented coach Steve Spurrier, Coles had 82 receptions for 1,204 yards and six touchdowns.

Coles will find it difficult to get an outright release from the Redskins unless he is willing to give back some of the \$13 million signing bonus he received when he signed a seven-year, \$35 million contract as a free agent from the New York Jets two years ago. The Redskins could instead grant Coles permission to seek a trade, as they have with Gardner, but Gibbs said that had not been done as of Monday.

## Carter, Rolle, Mason among six players cut by Titans

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Receiver Derrick Mason and cornerback Samari Rolle were among six players released Monday by the Tennessee Titans in an effort to cut up to \$27 million to get under the NFL salary cap.

In addition to Mason and Rolle, the Titans released starting defensive lineman Kevin Carter and right tackle Fred Miller. They also cut fullback Robert Holcombe and kicker Joe Nedney.

Mason led all NFL receivers last season with a career-high 96



**Washington Redskins WR Laveranues Coles, reportedly wants to leave the Redskins, who have told Coles they want him to have surgery on the toe injury that has plagued him the last two seasons.**

catches for 1,168 yards and seven touchdowns. The eight-year veteran was the first player in franchise history to have four consecutive 1,000-yard receiving seasons. Rolle, considered among the league's top cover cornerbacks, was arrested last week on a domestic assault charge. A Pro Bowl selection in 2000, Rolle played in 12 games last season before having surgery on his left knee. He had only one interception and 28 tackles.

Coles was the veteran on a very young defensive line last season. He played both end and tackle while mentoring the Titans' five draft picks. Miller is a nine-year veteran who started at right tackle the last five seasons for Tennessee.

## RT Diem signs seven-year deal to stay with Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts signed right tackle Ryan Diem to a seven-year contract Monday, another step in keeping their high-scoring offense together for one more season.

The next move could come Tuesday, with the Colts expected to place the franchise designation on Pro Bowl running back Edgerrin James.

Diem's deal kept him from becoming an unrestricted free agent in March. Salary figures were not immediately available, but the salary-cap friendly deal was believed to include a signing bonus of about \$12 million.

"This is the best of all worlds," Diem's agent Cliff Brady said. "He got the team he wanted, the deal he wanted and it worked out real well."

## Packers designate TE Franks as transition player

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Green Bay Packers designated three-time Pro Bowl tight end Bubba Franks as their transition player on Monday.

The Packers can try to negotiate a long-term deal with Franks. Until a deal is reached, Franks will receive a one-year contract at a tender rate set by the NFL for tight ends.

The Packers will have right of first refusal to match any offer Franks receives.

Franks, Green Bay's top pick in the 2000 draft, is tied with Mark Chmura for third place in franchise history for career receptions with 188.

# Match Play field set; weather the big issue

The Associated Press

CARLSBAD, Calif. — The field was set Monday afternoon for the Match Play Championship. All that remained in doubt was when it would start.

Vijay Singh, Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Retief Goosen are the top four seeds in the 64-man field at La Costa Resort. The seedings were determined by the world ranking from a week ago; Ernie Els (No. 3) previously said he would skip this World Golf Championship for the second straight year.

The big concern Monday was the weather.

While the sky above La Costa was surprisingly blue, the golf course was a combination of green grass and brown rainwater that raged across fairways and covered bridges. As always, 75-yard sandscapes in front of the 18th and 18th greens looked like ponds.

Heavy rain was in the forecast for Tuesday, and it might not be until Wednesday before tournament officials can say if the course is suitable for play.

The forecast for the rest of the week is mostly sunny skies, and there should not be any trouble scheduling a five-round, 144-hole, 18-hole matches, followed by the 36-hole final.

A year ago, Thursday was washed out by rain, leading to 36 holes a day the rest of the week.

Woods will be trying to win his third straight title in the Accenture Match Play Championship. He was knocked out in the first round by John Rollins, then had no other serious threats the rest of the way until beating Davis Love III, 3 and 2.

Woods will play three-time major winner Nick Price in the first round.

## Priest pleads guilty in Pitt football player's death

PITTSBURGH — A priest pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter Tuesday in the death of a University of Pittsburgh football player who fell through a church ceiling while drunk.

The Rev. Henry Krawczyk, who entered the plea on the day his trial was to begin, was sentenced to seven years' probation.

The sentence was the maximum amount of probation the priest could have faced in the June 18, 2003, death of 19-year-old receiver Billy Gaines.

Gaines was legally drunk when he fell onto his head from more than 20 feet from a crowd of fans above the ceiling at St. Anne Church in a Pittsburgh suburb. Gaines, a former high school star from Jansville, Md., died about 20 hours later of head and spinal injuries.

Allegheny County prosecutors said Krawczyk, 52, was the only adult of legal drinking at a cocktail party hosted in the church hours leading up to Gaines' fall.

Judge John Zottola imposed the sentence under a plea bargain with the priest, the spiritual father of Gaines' parents, Kimberly Ann and William Gaines, who didn't want the priest to go to jail. While

## Sports briefs

on probation, Krawczyk won't be allowed to have private contact with anyone under 21 years of age.

Gaines' family has a \$75 million suit pending against the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, where Krawczyk is an administrative leave. They said the priest wasn't properly disciplined for past accusations involving alcohol and minors.

## Hockey coach suspended for offering bounty on rival player

DETROIT — Motor City Mechanics coach Steve Shannon was suspended by the United Hockey League for the rest of the season for offering his players \$200 to take out Flint Generals forward Kevin Kerr.

UHL Commissioner Richard Brosal said Shannon never admitted to offering the money, but a league investigation found that he placed the bounty on Feb. 2 when the Mechanics played the Generals in Flint.

Before the game, Kerr criticized UHL players who had joined UHL teams, saying they were taking time from minor league players.

Chris Chelios, Derian Hatcher and Kris Draper of the Detroit Red Wings joined the Mechanics on Feb. 1. Another Red Wings player, Jason Woolley, recently signed with the Generals.

Brosal confirmed that the bounty was \$200, but said the amount wasn't important.

Shannon during the game said, "I would not put a bounty on another player's head," Brosal said Tuesday.

Brosal said Shannon won't be automatically reinstated for the 2005 season.

"I would review that again if it came up. We'll just have to wait and see," he said.

Shannon didn't immediately return a phone message left by The Associated Press. He will miss the final 24 games played by the last-place Mechanics (73-33-6).

## Boxer Young, who fought Ali, Norton, Foreman, dies at 56

PHILADELPHIA — Former heavyweight boxer Jimmy Young, who beat George Foreman and fought Muhammad Ali and Ken Norton in the 1970s, has died. He was 56.

Young died Sunday at Hahnemann University Hospital, a spokeswoman told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The Philadelphia Daily News reported that he died of a heart disease after a six-day hospitalization.

The 6-1, 210-pound Young compiled a 35-18-3 record with 12 knockouts during a career that spanned from 1969-90.

Young lost a championship bout to Ali on April 30, 1976, although some boxing experts disputed the decision. He beat Foreman nearly a year later in a 12-round decision in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on March 17, 1977. But perhaps his toughest loss was a split decision to Norton on May 5, 1977, in a WBC elimination bout in Las Vegas.

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# Golden: Victory over Soviets shocked world

GOLDEN, FROM BACK PAGE

Kasatonov, Sergei Starikov, Helmut Balderis and Sergei Makarov.

The week before they headed for the Olympics, the young Americans ended a grueling exhibition schedule with a game against the Soviets at Madison Square Garden. They seemed in awe, applauding the Soviets during the introductions.

"We were not ready," Erzuizone said. "We stood around and watched in the first period, then played a little in the second and third."

The result was a 10-3 rout by the Soviets.

"We were setting them up," Erzuizone chuckled. Brooks drove his team valiantly through their training and exhibition season. The drills were exhausting, and so were the humiliations that the coach preached over and over to his players:

■ "Gentlemen, you don't have enough talent to win on talent alone."

■ "You can't be common, because the common man goes nowhere. You have to be uncommon."

■ "Let's be idealistic, but let's also be practical."

And on and on.

The players mimicked the four Brooks behind his back. They called themselves Big Doodles, a phrase they made up to mean they were hot stuff, even if they weren't. It was their own little joke.

And then they went out and played an even bigger one on the rest of the world.

Brooks the Olympic tournament began, the last thing the Americans were thinking about was the Soviets.

"They were in the other division," Erzuizone said. "We were worried about Sweden, Czechoslovakia and West Germany, the teams in our division. We thought a bronze medal was possible. Herb said I'd get to the final four and then, whatever happens, happens."

The American Olympic olympiad started modestly. They staged a tie in the opener when they pulled goalie Jim Craig in the last minute of play and defenseman Bill Baker scored with 27 seconds left against Sweden.

"The biggest game of the tournament is my against Sweden," Craig said before the first faceoff.

He had no idea what was still ahead.

Energized by the dramatic comeback for the last-minute tie, the Americans defeated Czechoslovakia 7-3. Suddenly, there was a feeling around the Olympics that these kids might be able to accomplish something special.

"We wanted to win so bad," forward Mike Ramsey said after the game against the Czechs. "The feeling in the locker room was unbelievable."

The tough part of the preliminary schedule was done. The Americans followed up with wins against Norway and Romania and then rallied from two goals behind to defeat West Germany 4-2. They had made it to the medal round, the tournament's final four. Now, it was all about the Soviets.

On Feb. 22, a Friday night, the Americans faced the Soviets in the first medal-round game. Erzuizone remembered the electricity in the arena.

"It was a different atmosphere, a greater intensity," he said. "There was a feeling of, 'Hey, we can win this thing.'"

They were probably the only ones in Lake Placid who believed that.

Brooks gathered his team before the game and offered one more hockey homily, one more bit of philosophy that would become an indelible part of their legacy.

"You were born to be a player," Brooks told them. "You were meant to be here."

And then he sent them out to play the game of their lives.

"So much is made of confrontations," Erzuizone said. "As players, we had no concept of that. We were so focused, it was as if we were playing with blinders on. Herb had us geared to play a hockey game, he kept the outside stuff out of it. We were where we wanted to be—in position for a medal."

The Americans skated furiously against the Soviets. Twice in the first period, they fell behind.



Goalie Jim Craig draped himself with the U.S. flag after the Americans defeated Finland to win gold.

Twice, they came back, tying the score in the last second of the period when Mark Johnson put a rebound past Tretiak.

When the teams took the ice for the second period, Tretiak was gone. The best goalie in the world had been benched, replaced by Vladimir Myshkin, a star in his own right. The Americans shrugged off the switch. "It was like taking out Patrick Roy and putting in Martin Brodeur," Erzuizone said.

The Americans managed just two shots on goal in the second period. Aleksandr Maltsev had the only goal of the period, and with 20 minutes to play the Soviets led 3-2. Then Team USA got a spark.

Johnson's second goal of the game tied it for the Americans at 8:39 of the third period. Eighty-one seconds later, Erzuizone drilled a screened shot past Myshkin and the United States led for the first time. Now it became a test of endurance. The seconds ticked off excruciatingly slowly, each one seeming to last an eternity as Craig held off the frantic Soviets.

Defensemen flopped to block shots. Craig was acrobatic in net. Erzuizone kept watching the clock. "It was," he said, "the longest 10 minutes of my life."

As time wound down, the crowd's chants grew louder and louder.

"U-S-A! U-S-A! U-S-A!" The stands surrounding the rink became a sea of red, white and blue. This was no longer a hockey game. It was an endurance test, an emotional roller coaster.

Finally, mercifully, it ended. As broadcaster Al Michaels counted down the last seconds, he ended with an exclamation: "Do you believe in miracles? Yes!"

If they hadn't before, Americans did then.

As time ran out, the U.S. players dashed onto the ice, falling over one another in celebration. Craig, who stopped 36 shots, scanned the stands for his father. Brooks wheeled and headed for the locker room. This was his team's moment. He would not intrude on it.

The streets that night in Lake Placid were like one big block party, Americans celebrating a moment few of them thought possible.

Two days later, the miracle was completed, the gold medal clinched when the Americans came from behind with three third-period goals to defeat Finland 4-2.

When it was over, Erzuizone stood on the medal platform to accept the gold and gestured to his teammates. Soon they were all up there, grinning, laughing, pounding each other on the back. The Big Doodles celebrating what they had accomplished.

Baker, the defenseman who saved the Americans in the tournament opener, is now a dentist. He reflected on what he and the others did 25 years ago.

"This was just a team of destiny," he said. "You just can't explain what happened. It just seemed things were supposed to happen that way."

# No tragic heroes in NHL's laborious mess

PHILADELPHIA — Now they just need to go away — Gary Bettman, Bob Goodenow, all of their helpers, all of them. Because they are disgusting now. They make

This has never been a good-and-evil thing, this NHL lockout. This has always been a fight about business, and about dollars. And, given that, it wasn't that hard to avoid feeling any specific hatred for anybody. It was a hard negotiation, it was going to take a long time, fine. Just get about it.

But then came the cancellation of the season last Wednesday. And then, even worse, came the re-negotiation of talks last weekend, the introduction of icons Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux into the equation, the real and fervent hope that this thing might be salvaged — only to see the whole business go up in flames, spectacular flames.

The answer, well, I know they're done messing with me and my emotions, and I suspect that they're done messing with you. Because we're not paying attention anymore. Because we refuse to be interested anymore.

They had better not show their faces again in this is solved — and this is a very serious assertion. Because at this point, every picture of Bettman or Goodenow will cost the NHL fans and money, now and in the future — and that is a certainty after last weekend.

A confession here, one most American sports columnists don't share: I like the game and I like the people, and I kind of like the fact that it is a niche sport until the playoffs start (and even then).

After a fall and winter of the Eagles, during which every step is scrutinized, every sentence is parsed, it is a pleasure to watch people compete at the highest level of athletics, but without a lot of the attendant nonsense. It can be a great game. It is like a vacation.

But that's over. That's a long gone now. And if the most troubling thing remains the uncertainty of the future — this really could be a garage league when it's over, if it takes another 12 months or more.

There is another concern. May as well be naive, but I honestly believed all along that intelligent people would realize the dangers of uncertainty and cut some kind of deal.

After this weekend, though, I don't know. For the first time, I really believe that the owners are now into full NHL kabuki mode, engaged in a dance for the benefit

of the men and women of the National Labor Relations Board, a dance designed to allow them to implement a deal on their terms and get on with the business of breaking the union.

It's not something I ever really believed. But, well, here we are.

They gave out every signal in the world that a \$45 million compromise cap would get a deal done, or something close to that. They brought in Gretzky and Lemieux for the negotiations, both of them representing small-market ownership (Gretzky in Phoenix, Lemieux in Pittsburgh) but both of them also representing the greatness and the traditional integrity of the game. The NHL did all of that. It called the union and asked for a meeting — and, then, nothing.

There was no new offer. Instead, there was a reiteration of the league's previous offer, a deal with additional detail that left the two sides so far apart that the union didn't even bother presenting any of the proposed counteroffers it had in its back pocket.

Both sides left the table saying the same thing: The season is really gone this time, and we really aren't that close to a settlement at all.

And, so, we dance.

It is no surprise that both sides have attached themselves to outside labor counsel — and, in fact, that these lawyers have been at the bargaining table since the recent weeks rather than either Bettman or Goodenow.

Because we are now in the position of the proceeding where we are creating a record for the NHL. Each side has made offers and counter-offers recently — because, well, you don't want to be seen as backing out. So, by bargaining, when the NHL is called in by the union to take a look.

At the same time, though, the NHL also had to demonstrate the distance between the sides, the hopelessness, the impasse. And, to an outsider, that is what this past weekend seemed to have been about.

Look, there are no heroes here. Bettman and the NHL do need some cost reductions, but this is beyond heavy-handed. Goodenow has refused to recognize the lousy cards he holds, but even if his union appearing to be fractured, he is still fighting an absurd fight. No heroes, then. None.

But this is now about something completely different than trying to settle. And if they try to drag us into it again, they had better know that they will suffer. They had better know that people will actively turn away.

So, come out of your holes when it is over and not a minute before.

And when you'll find out if anybody is waiting there to greet you.

Rich Hofmann is a columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News.

Rich Hofmann



*This really could be a garage league when it's over, if it takes another 12 months or more.*



# Damon, Ortiz lighten mood; Giambi reports

The Associated Press

Johnny Damon and David Ortiz reported to the Boston Red Sox's training camp and took a more lighthearted approach to bashing Alex Rodriguez.

Damon had dubbed his own teammates a bunch of "idiots" last season and, on Monday in Fort Myers, Fla., rattled off one-liners.

One was about Rodriguez's early morning training regimen.

## Spring training roundup

"Waking up 6 in the morning," Damon said after his late-afternoon arrival. "There's been many a nights where I haven't been to bed at 6 in the morning."

Ortiz, another Red Sox clubhouse clown, was too busy to pay attention to all the negative comments made about the New York Yankees' third baseman.

"I only have one tape at home, the Red Sox one," Ortiz said about Boston's championship season video. "I watch it over and over and over and over and I don't even know what's going on here."

Even Trent Nixon, who criticized Rodriguez for boasting about his workouts, said he was "being stupid and flying off at the mouth" when he made them Feb. 15. Still, he stood by his criticism.

At Tampa, Fla., Jason Giambi made his first appearance at the Yankees' complex and expressed empathy for A-Rod.

"He's definitely got it rough," Giambi said. "I'm definitely here for him as a teammate. I know what it's like to be on the rough side."



Jason Giambi smiles as he talks with reporters after arriving at spring training.

Giambi has his own critics to appease after a season wrecked by injury and an off-season filled with steroid allegations, and he wasted no time getting started.

A little more than 2 hours after arriving at spring training in Tampa, Fla., on Monday, he walked to the outfield end of the New York dugout, stepped onto the field and was greeted with cheers and outstretched paws.

"It's pretty humbling, pretty incredible, to have the support from the fans," Giambi said. "It's pretty awesome."

When he returned to the clubhouse, Giambi went down a row of pitchers' lockers and shook hands with Randy Johnson. Giambi decided not to give a group apology.

"What I've started doing is going up to the guys face to face," he said. "To me, that means more to doing a team meeting or

addressing the team."

Yankees bashing spilled over into the Philadelphia Phillies' training camp in Clearwater, Fla., when outfielder Kenny Lofton reported and wasted no time taking a shot at Joe Torre, his manager last season.

"He didn't want me to play. If he wanted me to play, I would have played," Lofton said. "I liked the situation over there, but I wasn't wanted by the manager. Certain managers you respect. Now, I'm in a more relaxed situation."

A six-time All-Star center fielder, Lofton is coming off his most frustrating season. He hit .275 with seven stolen bases in just 83 games in his only year with the Yankees.

At Peoria, Ariz., Seattle third-baseman Adrian Beltre took his physical and joined his new teammates for a round of batting practice.

Beltre, who signed a \$6 million, five-year contract with the Mariners in December, knows the game will be different for him after spending the first seven years of his major league career with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"It's not going to be easy," he said of facing AL pitching for the first time. "It's going to take time to adjust to it. I hope my new teammates are going to help me."

At Surprise, Ariz., second baseman Alfonso Soriano was given permission to improve his running program as he prepared for his second season with the Texas Rangers.

"Everything looks great with Sorio," trainer Jamie Reed said.

Soriano tore his left hamstring and

missed the final two weeks of last season. He did most of his rehab work on a stationary bike after deciding not to have surgery.

"I just started running about two weeks ago," Soriano said.

"It's going to take a while to get in shape, but I feel good so far."

At Port St. Lucie, Fla., on the day center fielder Carlos Beltran reported to his first spring with the New York Mets, general manager Omar Minaya met with Mike Cameron, who is shifting from center.

"I'm not even thinking about trading Mike Cameron," Minaya said. "Mike Cameron's going to be our right fielder."

Cameron's name has surfaced in trade rumors since the Mets signed Beltran. Cameron reported to camp Monday and said he never indicated he wanted a trade.

At Tucson, Ariz., new Diamondbacks manager Bob Melvin selected Javier Vazquez as his opening day starter. Vazquez got the nod over fellow right-hander Russ Ortiz, who got the first opening day start of his career last season with the Atlanta Braves.

"It could have been either of them," Melvin said. "It could have been (Shawn) Estes. We have four guys we're going to feel very good about the day we run them out there. Vazquez had a little bit more experience pitching opening day."

At Lakeland, Fla., new Detroit Tigers outfielder Magglio Ordonez worked out without a brace on his left knee, which required two operations and cost him his season.

"My knee feels normal," said Ordonez, who spent the first eight years of his career with the Chicago White Sox. "The only thing I need to get back is my rhythm."



Minnesota Twins catcher Joe Mauer loosens up before taking batting practice during the team's first day of spring training camp on Monday. Mauer said the knee that bothered him most of last season is fine.

## Twins still facing questions about young catcher Mauer

BY DAVE CAMPBELL  
The Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Besieged by questions about Joe Mauer's readiness for the majors last spring, the Minnesota Twins and their young catcher are enduring another round of queries a year later.

So how is the knee, Joe?

"It was pretty good," Mauer said in his usual understated way. "Good first day."

Yes, Monday came and went without a hitch. On the first sanctioned workout for Twins pitchers and catchers, Mauer did every drill under no restrictions. He hit, threw, ran and — most importantly — crouched on his left knee without any problems.

"We're just keeping a little eye on it here in spring," Mauer said. "But I'm just like any other catcher here."

Except he's not.

None of the other catchers were chosen with the first pick in the draft, had their arms described by manager Ron Gardenhire as a "cannon" or were batting third in the big leagues just months after their 21st birthday.

Handed the starting job last April, Mauer tore medial meniscus cartilage in his left knee in the second game of the season and missed seven weeks.

He returned and was batting .308 with six homers and 17 RBIs in just 107 at-bats before soreness

*"Unless he tells me something's bothering him, I'm not going out there worrying about it."*

Ron Gardenhire  
Twins manager

and swelling in the knee sent him back to the disabled list right after the All-Star break and kept him out for the remainder of the season.

Watching Mauer in the batting cage won't give any clues about his condition, however.

"It's just as good as swing as ever, and the ball was jumping off his bat," Gardenhire said. "I don't think you're going to miss too much. He's a natural. He's got what it takes. We just hope he's healthy."

By all accounts, he is.

"I didn't even think about it at all today, until you guys asked me," Gardenhire told reporters gathered in his office after practice. "Unless he tells me something's bothering him, I'm not going out there worrying about it."

The coaching staff has devised a plan to slightly limit Mauer's repetitions during drills, but that's about the only caution

being exercised. The soft-spoken, smiling kid from St. Paul must play several more weeks before he'll actually know the knee is ready for the rigors of the 162-game season.

Though this injury might necessitate a switch to another position later in the career, there's no indication he can't catch for the Twins for several years to come.

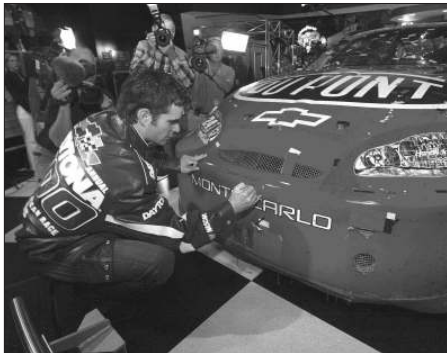
There's also no worry that his development was stunted by all that time spent in rehabilitation when he could've been behind — or at — the plate.

"He studies the game, and he's into it, and you don't have to worry about him too much," Gardenhire said. "He's got all those good instincts. Our pitchers love throwing to him. He's an easy guy to throw to. Umpires like it when he's behind the plate. Fans love him, in the stands. The popcorn guys love him. The guy selling Coca-Colas loves him. His family loves him a thousand of 'em. Florida State hates him."

That last part was a joking reference to Mauer's spurning of a football scholarship — he was a quarterback in high school — from Florida State to enter the baseball draft in 2001.

Despite the rookie-season setback, Mauer seems to have made the right decision.

"I've been looking ahead ever since I've been hurt," he said. "I've just been trying to get back on the field. Working hard every day, trying to get back on."



Daytona 500 winner Jeff Gordon signs the front bumper of his No. 24 Dupont Monte Carlo. The winning car will remain on display until next year's Daytona 500.

## Daytona win reinforces Gordon's desire to race

BY MIKE HARRIS  
The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jeff Gordon celebrated his third Daytona 500 victory aboard his 106-foot yacht, the 24 Karat.

The four-time NASCAR champion is rich beyond imagination, has Hollywood good looks, and is an A-list celebrity who is just as comfortable hosting "Saturday Night Live" or sitting in on "Live with Regis and Kelly" as driving his No. 24 Chevrolet.

Besides the yacht that was anchored just minutes from Daytona International Speedway last week, Gordon flies around in a private plane and has several homes.

Yet, for all his riches and fame, Gordon is still interested in the basics.

"You know, I learned quite a while ago that it's not racing that I love, it's winning," Gordon said.

And he's done plenty of that.

His victory Sunday, that came in spectacular fashion, not only put him among the Daytona elite — joining Richard Petty (7), Cale Yarborough (4), Bobby Allison (3) and Dale Jarrett (3) as the only drivers with three or more victories at NASCAR's shrine.

He has 70 career wins and is within six of Dale Earnhardt. Only six drivers in the more than half century of NASCAR racing have won more than Gordon.

"Seventy!" he said, relishing the sound. "I wanted to get to 70. That seemed like a good number."

To do it, Gordon had to outpace defending champion Dale Earnhardt Jr., former series champion Tony Stewart, who led a race-high 107 laps, and reigning Nextel Cup champ Kurt Busch.

He also had to survive a final 20 laps that were chaotic. There were two crashes involving 17 cars and a third caution flag for debris that sent the race into a three-lap overtime.

"Those are the moments that you live for, the moments we get paid the big bucks for," Gordon said. "You live to be in that position, to have chaos happening all around you, for your car to lead the pack."

"I enjoy being in that position. Being out front is the only place to be. I wanted that

checked flag really bad. I looked in my mirror and did everything I could."

What he saw in the mirror on the last two laps was Busch trying to close the gap by staying behind Gordon's rear bumper and coming up about two lengths short.

"I saw some video of the finish and saw how much momentum Busch had," Gordon said. "I'm really thankful he didn't try to go to my outside because I think he had the momentum to do it."

Busch doesn't want to think that he blew a chance for his first Daytona win.

"I had that butterfly in the stomach feeling of 'I've got a shot at winning the Daytona 500.' But I wouldn't have cleared him if I would have went to his high side," Busch said. "I know I wouldn't have. I'm going to stick with that in my mind and be happy with that decision. I'm not going to kick myself."

In the end it was Gordon who enjoyed the spoils, including a \$1.4 million payday. But it was the "W" he relished most.

"I would say that we enjoy the victories that we have these days more than ever, partly because we recognize just how special they are and how hard it is to win in Nextel Cup," Gordon said.

Gordon said the big celebration at the track continued Sunday when he was greeted by guests on his yacht and the team arrived.

"Walking onto that boat was similar to being in Victory Lane," he said. "I was screaming, yelling, high-fiving and enjoying the moment as much as I could. When Robbie and the guys got on the boat, it was the same thing all over again, reminiscing and reliving the moment."

The victory in the season opener got Gordon off to a strong start in his chase for a fifth season title. Only seven-time Cup winner Earnhardt, killed in the 2001 Daytona 500, and long-retired Richard Petty have more.

"But I try not to put too much emphasis on it right now because I don't want to focus on that," Gordon said. "I want to focus on wins and this Hendrick Motorsports team. I want to give them my best effort that I can week in and week out and do what we can to win the championship."

And more races.

## 20 years later, chair toss leaves indelible mark

BY MICHAEL MAROT  
The Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Those closest to Steve Reid know him as president of a trucking company, a former teammate, and a dad.

Some even remember him as a color commentator on Purdue basketball broadcasts.

However, most others know Reid as the answer to a trivia question.

For 20 years, his life has been defined by one enduring image — Bob Knight hurling a red, plastic chair across the basketball court as the 5-foot-9 Reid stood at the free throw line for Purdue.

"There are times I walk into a meeting or a friend calls to say 'I saw you on TV last night,'" he said from his Georgia home. "I know what they're talking about."

Like other famous trivia answers, Wally Pipp, Mookie Wilson and Al Downing, Reid's name will forever be linked to the question: "Who was the guy?"

The chair toss also remains a defining moment in the Indiana-Purdue rivalry. The teams met up again Tuesday, one day short of the 20th anniversary of Knight's throw.

Purdue coach Gene Keady is the last remaining major link to the outburst, and he will be coaching his final game at Assembly Hall.

Two decades ago, Keady walked into the postgame news conference after a 72-63 win and insisted the important thing was that Purdue won.

He was wrong. In Reid's mind, the red speck he noticed on the corner of his eye never faded. Nor did the ensuing collapse — he missed three of six free throws as Knight was tossed from the game and was promptly scolded on the sideline by Keady.

Knight, fired by Indiana in 2000, didn't return phone messages left for him by The Associated Press at Texas Tech where he now coaches.

He's coped with it, though, by poking fun at himself over the years. During speeches, Knight sometimes recounts a tale of spotting an old woman behind the basket who needed a chair, so he tossed one to her.

In 2002 at a news conference, Knight found another way to joke about it after tossing aside a broken metal chair. "That's the furthest I've thrown a chair in a long time," he said.

To Iowa coach Steve Alford, who was then playing for Knight, the chair throw was symbolic of a season gone awry. Indiana went 16-13 that year and lost to UCLA in the NIT championship, far below the lofty expectations of a coach who by then had won two NCAA titles and the 1984 Olympic gold medal.

"It was not one of our better years, whether it was throwing a chair or not playing well as a team or whatever," Alford said. "It was a technical foul, and we moved on."

For Purdue players, it wasn't that simple. Assembly Hall quickly degenerated from a hostile environment into a dangerous one. Several Boilermakers still recall the standing ovation Knight received, and then the coin-tossing began. Keady's wife was hit in the eye.

"I figured they must have thought if the coach can throw a chair, they can throw a penny," Reid said.

When play finally resumed, some Purdue players feared for their safety.

Troy Lewis, then a Boilermakers freshman, said the fans were so loud it was scary. Another freshman, Everette Stephens, said he was fearful of even playing.



Indiana coach Bob Knight throws a chair across the floor protesting a technical foul during a game against Purdue in Bloomington, Ind., on Feb. 23, 1985.

"I was so nervous and so scared because it was so piercing loud," he said. "That was the loudest crowd I had ever been around."

What ignited the outburst was a scramble for a loose ball at midcourt. Indiana's Darryl Thomas drew his second foul five minutes into the game when Knight insisted it should have been a jump ball.

Knight was called for a technical, but before Reid shot the free throws, Knight grabbed a chair with two hands and flung it toward the basket.

Knight apologized the next day, and Big Ten officials gave him a one-game suspension.

Chuck Crabbs, Indiana's longtime public address announcer, had the unenviable job of telling the raucous crowd that Knight had been ejected.

In the 20 years since, Crabbs said he has never seen a crowd at Assembly Hall react quite the same way.

"Our crowd, in the next few minutes after that, was a very ugly crowd," Crabbs said. "Everything was a boo."

The ramifications are still evident.

Bench seats are frequently chained together in basketball venues now. At Indiana, the courtesies trash cans are also locked down.

Crabbs can occasionally be heard scolding fans when he believes they are getting out of line, and even Knight was known to grab the microphone periodically.

But two decades later, Reid said he still has not spoken to Knight. The only correspondence came through an e-mail that Reid sent after reading "Knight: My Story."

On the other side, Reid said he enjoyed hearing the other side of the story and agreed the call should have been a jump ball, not a foul.

Reid said that Knight sent an appreciative reply.

Now, when Reid watches the tape with his four children, they don't talk about the chair but give their father and coach grief about his turnovers and missed free throws.

Everyone else wants to know about his scrape with infamy.

"A lot of times when I get introduced somewhere, that story comes up and people say 'Are you serious, that was in basketball?'" he said. "I didn't like it the first few years, but now I wear it with pride."

Associated Press sports writer Chuck Schoffner contributed to this report.

# Air Force nets first 19 points in rout of BYU

BY EDDIE PELLIS  
The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — For more than 10½ strange and painful minutes, the string of futility played out. Layups, three-pointers, free throws — Brigham Young couldn't get anything to drop.

The result was a 19-40 defeat on the way to a 70-39 loss to Air Force on Monday night, an unmistakable low point to a season that has been full of them for the struggling Cougars.

Antoine Hood scored 14 points to help the Falcons (16-10, 7-4 Mountain West) recover in a big way, two days after they had their 24-game home winning streak snapped by Utah.

The Cougars (9-18, 3-9) are from the same state as the 12th-ranked Utes, but that's pretty much all those teams have in common this season.

Fielding a young lineup missing two regulars, coach Steve Cleveland tried almost every combination during the scoreless string, which lasted 10 minutes, 40 seconds, to no effect.

Substitutes came in, then sat back down. Two media timeouts passed, along with two more called by BYU.

About midway through the drought, Brock Reicher picked up the ball around midcourt and had an unimpeded path to the basket. Air Force's Caleb Buchanan caught up, though, and blocked the shot, marking BYU's ninth straight miss to start the game.

By the time they finally scored, the Cougars had attempted 10 shots, but only three were good, 0-for-2 from the free-throw line, committed four turnovers and had the ball stolen three times.

It was Austin Ainge — the son of former Cougars star Danny Ainge who put a merciful end to the ugliness, hitting a shot from three feet behind the top of the three-point arc to make the score 19-3.

More than six minutes later, with the crowd at Clute Arena shouting "double digits," Chris Miles finally got the Cougars there by making a layup.

By halftime, it was 37-13. The 13 points were the least Air Force had ever allowed in a half in conference play, and surpassed BYU's all-time record for scoring futility in a half (1980 and 1982 against Wyoming — before the shot-clock came to college hoops) by just one point.

Not that Air Force felt bad about any of this.

For decades, the Falcons had been doormats to BYU and pretty much everyone else in the MWC, and the Western Athletic Conference before that.

The program has surged the past two seasons, and the Falcons made their first appearance in the NCAA tournament in 42 years last season.

But without winning the conference tournament next month, a repeat this season seems unlikely, especially after last week's loss to Utah, which Air Force dearly needed to increase its RPI ranking of 104.

This win did guarantee the Falcons of a second straight winning record, though — a feat not accomplished since 1975-76 — and kept the 20-win mark within reach.

Dan Nvaele scored 11 points and Nick Welch had 10, as coach Chris Mooney claimed his entire bench, playing 17 players.

Joshua Burgess had nine points to lead BYU, which uncharacteristically got blown out. This was only the second of 12 straight games this season in which the Cougars haven't led or been tied at some point in the second half.

# Sooners send Jayhawks skidding

The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — After nearly coming all the way back from a 19-point deficit, the Kansas Jayhawks just couldn't prevent another frustrating loss.

Terrell Everett scored 19 points and freshman David Goldobald added a career-high 15 in 20:22 Oklahoma's 71-63 victory Monday night that sent the eighth-ranked Jayhawks to their first three-game losing streak in nearly 11 years.

Kansas, which lost to Texas Tech in double overtime and Iowa State in overtime last week, has lost three straight for the first time since falling to Oklahoma State, Missouri and Nebraska

from Feb. 16-23, 1994. The Jayhawks haven't lost four in a row since an eight-game losing streak in 1988-89.

"I think we're a tough team," freshman guard J.R. Giddens said. "We're just going through some things right now like a lot of teams do. I wouldn't say our season's over with."

"We're not done. The Jayhawks are not done."

Kansas rallied from 19 points down in the first half to get within a point midway through the second half, but the Sooners (20-6, 9-4 Big 12) held on to drop the Jayhawks (20-4, 10-3) out of a first-place tie with Oklahoma State in the Big 12.

After trailing 37-18 with 1:10 left in the first half, the Jayhawks scored the last four points before intermission and the first five of the second half.

Struggling against Oklahoma's man-to-man defense, the Jayhawks found something that worked.

"Kansas in the second half kind of scraped their way out," Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson said. "They didn't have any offense in the second half. They just put their head down and went to the rim."

The Jayhawks used an 11-2 rally, capped by Giddens' three-point off a pass from Wayne Simien, to pull to 47-46. Aaron Miles started the run with four straight layups. Giddens and Simien followed with jumpers.

But once the Jayhawks got close, the Sooners switched to a zone and stymied Kansas' hopes for its biggest comeback win of the season.

Oklahoma scored six straight points to stretch the lead to 60-52, with Goldobald grabbing a rebound and hitting a jumper in the lane with 2:35 left.

The Jayhawks got within four on several occasions after that, but Drew Lauderdale



Oklahoma guard Terrell Everett, left, shoots while being fouled by Kansas forward Wayne Simien in the second half. Everett had a game-high 19 points in the Sooners' victory.

hit all four of his free throws and Everett added two more to secure the victory.

"We were horrible and OU was good defensively," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "I thought they played with great energy, and I thought they did a great job defensively of not letting the ball get in tight. We did a bad job of driving it and creating help."

"It was just pitiful. Pitiful all the way around. But their defense had a lot to do with it."

Simien finished with 17 points and six rebounds. Keith Langford scored 16 points and Miles added 15 for Kansas.

**New Mexico 65, No. 13 Utah 54:** Mark Walters scored a season-high 22 points to help New Mexico snap visiting Utah's 18-game winning streak.

The Utes (23-4, 11-1), who clinched the Mountain West regular-season title Saturday, shot just 37 percent. Utah center Andrew Bogut, averaging 20.6 points and 11.8 rebounds, finished with 15 points and 13 re-

bounds.

The Lobos (20-6, 7-4) are 6-1 in their past seven games.

**No. 17 Connecticut 88, Notre Dame 74:** At Hartford, Conn., Charlie Villanueva matched his career high with 25 points, and Connecticut point guard Marcus Williams had 17 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds.

The Huskies (18-6, 10-3 Big East) won for the sixth time in seven games to move Jim Calhoun within two victories of becoming the sixth active coach with 700.

Colin Falls led Notre Dame (16-8, 8-6) with 19 points.

**No. 25 Nevada 70, Tulsa 56:** Nick Fazekas had 15 points and 15 rebounds to help Nevada win its first home game as a ranked team.

Jermine Washington added 13 points for the Wolf Pack (21-5, 3-2 Western Athletic Conference), who moved into The Associated Press poll earlier Monday.

# UConn's top scorer Anderson back on bench

BY DONNA TOMELLOE  
The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Rashad Anderson drew a starting ovation as he made his way to the Connecticut bench before Monday's game against Notre Dame.

The sellout crowd of 16,294 celebrated the return of Anderson, who spent 13 days in the hospital battling a life-threatening infection. Wearing a gray suit on his noticeably thinner 6-foot-5 frame, Anderson waded to the crowd, hugged his teammates and took a seat near the end of the bench.

It may be a while before he dons a uniform, but that's just fine with him.

"My first reaction was I didn't even care if I didn't play again, as long as I was able to walk outside and spend time with my family," Anderson said. "That was the first time in my life when [basketball] didn't matter."

The sharp-shooting junior from Lakeland, Fla., had a team-best 13.8-point average in his last six games as his return began to give him problems on Feb. 7, the morning of UConn's game against Syracuse. He

called his mother, Velma, a nurse, at 5 a.m. that day and said he wasn't feeling well. She urged him to call the trainer.

Anderson did play that night, his last game with the team, and scored four points in 24 minutes in a 74-66 win at Syracuse.

Then things got worse — much worse. Anderson had the abscess treated at a hospital near campus the next day, but a resulting infection from it nearly killed him. Three days later, he could barely breathe, his kidneys began to malfunction, his temperature spiked to nearly 104 degrees and his blood pressure was sky high.

Anderson spent the next several days in intensive care at Hartford Hospital with his parents at his side. Velma Anderson, a delivery room nurse, could only watch as her son, growing weaker each day, struggled for air.

"It would take him several minutes just to get a sentence out," she said Monday.

He would doze, then he'd wake up and he would say "Mom, please don't go to sleep. You can't go to sleep. You have to watch me."

She and her husband, David, knew how dire the situation was.

Eventually they told their son.

"We didn't tell him at the time because he was already so scared, but we did let him know. And he doesn't remember a lot of stuff. Once he made it through Friday night, I told him everything was going to be all right," she said.

Cousin Jim Calhoun was also near Anderson's bedside throughout the ordeal. Anderson was the second of Calhoun's players who was seriously ill this season. Freshman A.J. Price had a brain hemorrhage in late October and was in critical condition for nearly three weeks. Price has recovered and, although back in class, will miss the rest of the basketball season.

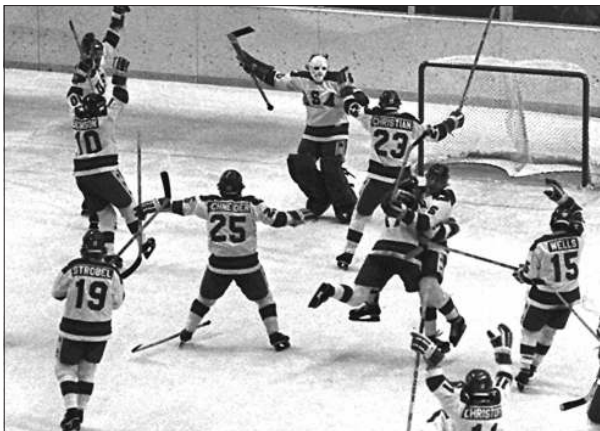
Price and Anderson sat next to each other Monday.

"I would have never thought in a million years I would be going through a similar situation," Anderson said. "It humbles you. It makes you not take things for granted, because you never know when it's going to be taken from you."

## SPORTS



Examining this season's  
flops and success stories  
in the NBA, Page 25



The U.S. Olympic hockey team cuts loose after its 4-3 victory over the Soviet Union on Feb. 22, 1980, in Lake Placid, N.Y. Two days later, the Americans defeated Finland 4-2 in the gold-medal game.

# A golden moment celebrates its silver anniversary

## Improbable victory over Soviets in 1980 Olympics remembered

BY HAL BOCK  
The Associated Press

They are middle-aged men now, their hair a little thinner, their bodies a little thicker, pursuing careers, one an oral surgeon, another a financial broker, one a horse rancher, another a university executive, spread across the country from Massachusetts to Minnesota.

Twenty-five years ago, they came together and manufactured a miracle.

This week, they'll gather in Lake Placid, N.Y., for their silver anniversary reunion. The U.S. hockey team won the Olympic gold medal in that tiny Adirondack town in 1980, prevailing against the longest

of odds and bringing together a country that was struggling through tough times.

It produced a nationwide celebration then, and the reunion ought to be a terrific party now.

"There are a lot of great memories," said Mike Eruzione, the captain of the team, who scored the winning goal in the medal-round

game against the Soviet Union and now works in alumni relations at his alma mater, Boston University. "The feelings in that arena, that locker room. The fun we had. What we accomplished. It was a fabulous two weeks."

Understand the circumstances. Twenty-five years ago, as 20 young skaters prepared



Mike Eruzione, captain of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team who scored the winning goal in the medal-round game against the Soviet Union, now works in alumni relations at his alma mater, Boston University. He said of the two-week tournament, "We thought a bronze medal was possible."

for those Olympic Games, Americans were being held hostage in Iran and Soviet troops were marching through Afghanistan. President Carter already had announced a U.S. boycott of the Summer Olympics in Moscow. The U.S. economy was in deflation, with interest rates and inflation soaring.

Professionals were not a part of the Olympics then. There were no Dream Teams of NBA players in the Summer Games, no NHL players in the Winter Games. It was an all-amateur show. At least it was supposed to be.

USA Hockey followed the rules, gathering a squad of college kids and undrafted players

and turning them over to Herb Brooks, hockey coach of the University of Minnesota. Brooks was the last player cut from the 1960 U.S. hockey team, which won a gold medal. Every gold after that had gone to the Soviet Union, and there was no reason to believe that would change in 1980.

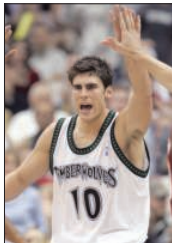
The Soviets arrived in Lake Placid with a roster of stars. The goalie was Vladislav Tretiak, who would wind up in the Hall of Fame. The captain was Boris Mikhailov, affectionally known as the Gordie Howe of Gorky Street. The team included a fistful of future NHL players like Viacheslav Fetisov, Vladimir Krutov, Alexei

SEE GOLDEN ON PAGE 28



Oklahoma hands  
No. 8 Kansas its  
third straight loss;  
Air Force  
dominates BYU

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As NBA trade  
deadline looms,  
rumors swirl  
around T-wolves

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While two Red Sox  
lighten up on  
the war of words  
with the Yankees,  
embattled Giambi  
meets the press

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